

ARIANA KELLY  
Legislative District 16  
Montgomery County

Judicial Proceedings Committee



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 222  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3124 · 301-858-3124  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3124  
Ariana.Kelly@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 27th, 2024

SB0905: Public Safety – Extreme Risk Protective Orders – Review of Court Records

Chair Clippinger, Vice-Chair Bartlett, Members of the Committee,

I am here to voice my strong support for Senate Bill 905, a cross-file of Delegate Robbyn Lewis's HB1267, which passed your committee and the House floor with bipartisan support.

Senate Bill 905 amends Article 5-602 of the Public Safety Code, specifically addressing the confidentiality of court records related to petitions for extreme risk protective orders. By allowing qualified researchers access to court records, Senate Bill 905 facilitates rigorous analysis and evaluation of the implementation and impact of extreme risk protective orders.

With an amendment introduced by the Judicial Proceedings Committee, any higher education researchers must enter into a binding agreement with the Judiciary that provides for the storage and handling of the records. These provisions balance transparency and privacy, upholding the integrity of the legal process while advancing scholarly inquiry and knowledge dissemination.

You may notice that in the purpose paragraph, there has been language added regarding establishing penalties. This language was included in an early version of the amendment, but penalty language is no longer found in the text. For this reason, I would encourage the committee to adopt a technical amendment to strike this language from the purpose paragraph. The Senate will gladly and quickly concur.

This legislation strengthens public safety measures and advances research in the field of gun violence prevention. I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 905.