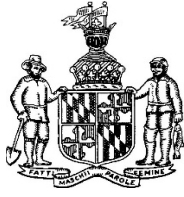


Feinstein Letter of Support HB1350 in JPR--Fourth

Uploaded by: Debbie Feinstein

Position: FAV



STATE'S ATTORNEY
JOHN J. MCCARTHY

State's Attorney for Montgomery County

50 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

240-777-7300
FAX 240-777-7413
WWW.MONTGOMERYCOUNTYMD.GOV/SAO

DEPUTY STATE'S ATTORNEYS
PETER A. FEENEY
RYAN S. WECHSLER

March 21, 2025

The Honorable Will Smith
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

I write in support of HB1350—Criminal Law—Fourth Degree Sexual Offense—Out of State Convictions. I am the Chief of the Special Victims Division for the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office and am co-chair of the Maryland State's Attorney Association's Special Victims Legislative Subcommittee. The MSAA subcommittee is comprised of representatives from the vast majority of State's Attorney's Offices in Maryland who prosecute special victims' cases, including fourth degree sexual offense.

Under current law, a repeat sexual offender who is charged with a violation of section 3-308 of the Maryland Criminal Law Article, is subject to a three year period of incarceration (versus one year), if the offenders prior convictions occurred in Maryland. House Bill 1350 will enhance the penalty for fourth degree sexual offense if the offender has a prior sexual offense or child sexual abuse conviction "in another state or in a federal, military, or Native American tribal court."

House Bill 1350 brings the subsequent offender penalties for fourth degree sexual offense into parity with other subsequent offender laws, including section 21-902(e) of the Maryland Traffic Code, which allows for enhanced penalties for driving under the influence or impaired by drugs or alcohol, if the offender has "a conviction for a crime committed in another state or federal jurisdiction that, if committed in this State, would constitute a violation" of Maryland's DUI laws.

Subsequent offender laws are meant to deter individuals from committing the same crime more than one time. The current law, which allows a person to take advantage of a lesser sentence simply because their prior offense is out of state, is inconsistent with the goal of deterrence. Offenders should not be able to escape a higher sentence simply because they committed a similar offense across state lines.

I strongly urge this Committee to issue a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Debbie Feinstein
Senior Assistant State's Attorney
Montgomery County, Maryland

SO - 4th degree out of state - testimony - house i

Uploaded by: Lisae C Jordan

Position: FAV



Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

P.O. Box 8782
Silver Spring, MD 20907
Phone: 301-565-2277
www.mcasa.org

For more information contact:
Lisae C. Jordan, Esquire
443-995-5544

Testimony Supporting House Bill 1350
Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel
March 25, 2025

The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) is a non-profit membership organization that includes the State's seventeen rape crisis centers, law enforcement, mental health and health care providers, attorneys, educators, survivors of sexual violence and other concerned individuals. MCASA includes the Sexual Assault Legal Institute which provides direct legal services for survivors across the State of Maryland. We urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on House Bill 1350.

House Bill 1350 – 4th Degree Sexual Offense

Technical Change – Subsequent Offenses and Out of State Crimes

Offenders who commit a sexual offense in the 4th degree are subject to a higher penalty if they have previously committed a sexual offense. This bill makes the subsequent offender penalties apply when the prior offense was committed in another jurisdiction as well as when they were committed in Maryland. This is a technical correction to ensure that subsequent offender provisions are enforceable regardless of where the prior offense occurred.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the
Judicial Proceedings Committee to
report favorably on House Bill 1350**