



Maryland State's Attorneys' Association

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DATE: **March 21, 2025**

BILL NUMBER: **SB 343**

POSITION: **Unfavorable**

The Maryland State's Attorneys' Association (MSAA) opposes Senate Bill 343, and urges the Judiciary Committee to issue an unfavorable report.

MSAA advocates for transparency and acknowledges that data is essential to the work of prosecution – both in terms of effectively administering the criminal justice system and in terms of public trust and confidence in such administration. In fact, all 24 jurisdictions now have case management systems, and three of the larger jurisdictions – Baltimore City, Frederick County, and Montgomery County – are leading the way in data transparency initiatives as a result of the recommendations made by the Task Force to Study Transparency Standards for State's Attorneys and published in their December 2023 report. The elected prosecutors from these jurisdictions recently returned from Florida, where they attended the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' Prosecutorial Performance Indicators (PPIs) Conference. The APA has partnered with Florida International University and Loyola University Chicago to implement PPIs and develop dashboards in prosecutors' offices nationwide.

At the same time, the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy is in the final stages of building a dashboard with most of the data recommended by the Task Force to Study Transparency Standards for State's Attorneys. With this dashboard, the State has essentially created a central database that could be adapted to meet the bill's intent. Enhancing this dashboard with the support and input of the State's Attorneys appears to be the most efficient way to proceed, as opposed to trying to create consistency and uniformity among 24 separate dashboards from jurisdictions that vary in capability, resources, and scale.

Reconstituting the task force at this time would not accomplish anything that isn't already in progress, as the work of the original task force has been completed and as funding exists within the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy to accomplish the objectives that animate this and similar legislative initiatives.