



**BILL NO:** Senate Bill  
**TITLE:** **Criminal Law - School Resource Officers - Prohibition on Sexual Activity with Students**  
**COMMITTEE:** Judicial Proceedings  
**HEARING DATE:** January 27, 2026  
**POSITION:** **FAVORABLE**

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The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the COMMITTEE to report favorably on SB 81.**

Senate Bill 81 addresses a gap in Maryland's "sexual extortion" and "breach of trust" laws regarding law enforcement officers. Existing Maryland law (Criminal Law § 3-314) already prohibits law enforcement officers from engaging in sexual activity with victims, witnesses, suspects, or people in their custody. However, it did not explicitly include students at schools where an officer is assigned as a School Resource Officer (SRO), provided the student wasn't technically in "custody" or part of an "investigation."

This bill adds students enrolled in a school where the officer is assigned to the list of protected classes. It makes sexual contact between an SRO and a student a misdemeanor punishable by up to 3 years in prison, regardless of "consent," due to the inherent power imbalance.

In this writer's personal experience all three of her children had friendly and consistent contact with the SRO at their middle school. It is vital that the SRO not use this position of trust in an inappropriate and damaging manor.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on SB 81.**