

# SENATE BILL 343

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SB 617/24 – JPR

5lr1626  
CF 5lr1869

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By: **Senator Sydnor**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2025

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State’s Attorneys – Reconstitution of Task Force and Establishment of Case**  
3 **Management System Grant Fund**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the State’s Attorney Case Management System Grant  
5 Fund; reconstituting the Task Force to Study Transparency Standards for State’s  
6 Attorneys; and generally relating to the State’s Attorney Case Management System  
7 Grant Fund and the Task Force to Study Transparency Standards for State’s  
8 Attorneys.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Criminal Procedure  
11 Section 15–501 through 15–503 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 5. State’s  
12 Attorney Case Management System Grant Fund”  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

16 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
17 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

21 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
22 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)204. and 205.  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland  
24 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

25 BY adding to

26 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
27 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)206.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland  
2 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

3 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
4 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

5 **Article – Criminal Procedure**

6 **SUBTITLE 5. STATE’S ATTORNEY CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM GRANT FUND.**

7 **15–501.**

8 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
9 INDICATED.

10 (B) “CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM” MEANS AN ELECTRONIC PROGRAM THAT  
11 IS CAPABLE OF COLLECTING DATA ABOUT ARRESTS, CHARGING DECISIONS, AND  
12 OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT A CASE HANDLED BY A STATE’S ATTORNEY.

13 (C) “EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR” MEANS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
14 GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICY.

15 (D) “FUND” MEANS THE STATE’S ATTORNEY CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
16 GRANT FUND.

17 **15–502.**

18 (A) THERE IS A STATE’S ATTORNEY CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM GRANT  
19 FUND.

20 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO STATE’S  
21 ATTORNEYS’ OFFICES TO ESTABLISH OR IMPROVE CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS.

22 (C) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

23 (D) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT  
24 SUBJECT TO § 7–302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

25 (2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,  
26 AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
27 THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

28 (E) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

1           **(1) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;**

2           **(2) INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND; AND**

3           **(3) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR**  
4 **THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.**

5           **(F) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO STATE'S**  
6 **ATTORNEYS' OFFICES TO ESTABLISH OR IMPROVE CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS.**

7           **(G) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND**  
8 **IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.**

9           **(2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO**  
10 **THE FUND.**

11           **(H) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE**  
12 **WITH THE STATE BUDGET.**

13           **(I) THE ACCOUNTS AND TRANSACTIONS OF THE FUND SHALL BE SUBJECT**  
14 **TO AUDIT BY THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR AS PROVIDED IN § 2-1220 OF THE STATE**  
15 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

16 **15-503.**

17           **(A) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL:**

18           **(1) ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR STATE'S ATTORNEYS' OFFICES TO**  
19 **APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE GRANTS FROM THE FUND; AND**

20           **(2) SOLICIT GRANT PROPOSALS FROM STATE'S ATTORNEYS' OFFICES.**

21           **(B) A STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE THAT APPLIES FOR A GRANT FROM THE**  
22 **FUND SHALL PROVIDE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WITH:**

23           **(1) A DESCRIPTION OF THE CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM THAT THE**  
24 **STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SEEKS TO ESTABLISH OR THE IMPROVEMENTS THAT**  
25 **THE STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SEEKS TO MAKE TO AN EXISTING CASE**  
26 **MANAGEMENT SYSTEM; AND**

27           **(2) ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
28 **CONSIDERS NECESSARY.**

1 (C) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL MAKE GRANTS FROM THE FUND TO  
 2 STATE'S ATTORNEYS' OFFICES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OR IMPROVEMENT OF  
 3 CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS.

4 (D) A STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE THAT RECEIVES A GRANT FROM THE  
 5 FUND SHALL SUBMIT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PROOF OF THE EXPENDITURE  
 6 OF THE GRANT FUNDS.

7 (E) MONEY DISTRIBUTED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE USED TO  
 8 SUPPLEMENT AND NOT SUPPLANT ANY OTHER FUNDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT  
 9 OR IMPROVEMENT OF A CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

10 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

11 6–226.

12 (a) (2) (i) 1. This subparagraph does not apply in fiscal years 2024  
 13 through 2028.

14 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless  
 15 inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the  
 16 terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the  
 17 State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to  
 18 receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General  
 19 Fund of the State.

20 (ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply  
 21 to the following funds:

22 204. the Victims of Domestic Violence Program Grant Fund;  
 23 [and]

24 205. the Proposed Programs Collaborative Grant Fund; AND

25 **206. THE STATE'S ATTORNEY CASE MANAGEMENT**  
 26 **SYSTEM GRANT FUND.**

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

28 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Transparency Standards for State's Attorneys.

29 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

30 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland and two members of the  
 31 community, appointed by the President of the Senate;

1 (2) two members of the House of Delegates and two members of the  
2 community, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

3 (3) the President of the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association, or the  
4 President's designee;

5 (4) the Executive Director of the Maryland State Commission on Criminal  
6 Sentencing Policy, or the Executive Director's designee;

7 (5) one representative of the Administrative Office of the Courts, appointed  
8 by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland;

9 (6) one representative of the Vera Institute of Justice, appointed by the  
10 Governor;

11 (7) the Chair of the Attorney Grievance Commission, or the Chair's  
12 designee;

13 (8) one representative of a crime victims' advocacy group, appointed by the  
14 Governor;

15 (9) the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and  
16 Policy, or the Executive Director's designee;

17 (10) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee;

18 (11) the Public Defender of Maryland, or the Public Defender's designee; and

19 (12) one expert on data and transparency standards, appointed by the  
20 Governor.

21 (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall each designate  
22 one cochair of the Task Force.

23 (d) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the Task Force.

24 (e) A member of the Task Force:

25 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

26 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
27 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

28 (f) (1) The Task Force shall study the possibility of establishing minimum  
29 transparency standards for State's Attorneys.

30 (2) In conducting its study, the Task Force shall:

1 (i) develop processes by which prosecutors can collect information  
2 and determine what information should be made public and what information may be kept  
3 private; and

4 (ii) examine any existing policies of State's Attorneys' offices across  
5 the State relating to the transparency of data, the charging of crimes, and sentencing.

6 (g) On or before December 31 each year beginning December 31, 2025, the Task  
7 Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Senate Judicial Proceedings  
8 Committee and the House Judiciary Committee in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State  
9 Government Article.

10 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General  
11 Assembly that the Governor appoint to the Task Force to Study Transparency Standards  
12 for State's Attorneys those individuals who formerly were appointed to the predecessor  
13 Task Force established under Chapter 141 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2022 and  
14 who were serving on the Task Force as of June 30, 2024, in addition to the member required  
15 to be part of the Task Force under item (12) of subsection (b) of Section 2 of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
17 1, 2025. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of  
18 June 30, 2028, Section 2 of this Act, with no further action required by the General  
19 Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.