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Judicial Proceedings Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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Senate Bill 498 Drunk and Drugged Driving - Testing – Warrants

Senate Bill 498 would correct confusion about allowing a police officer to obtain a search warrant for a blood sample.

Currently the law authorizes an officer, if they have a reasonable belief that drugs were a factor in an accident, to take a blood draw only in cases involving fatalities or a life-threatening injury. For other cases that don't fall into this category, the law is currently being interpreted by some as a prohibition on a search warrant for a blood draw. In order to allow law officers to effectively deal with impaired drivers that do not fall into the above category, SB 498 permits an officer to make a determination when necessary to take blood and test for drugs in order to protect others on the road.

I respectfully request a favorable on Senate Bill 498.