



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: Senate Bill 227 – Family Law - Final Protective Order - Extension

SPONSOR: Senator Waldstreicher, *et al.*

HEARING DATE: February 4, 2020

COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 227, which specifies that if a motion to extend the term of a final protective order is filed during the term of the order and if the hearing on the motion is not held before the original expiration date of the final protective order, the order must be automatically extended and the terms of the order remain in full force and effect until the hearing on the motion.

Victims of domestic violence rely on police officers, sheriff's deputies, and the courts to protect them from their abusers. This proposed legislation will ensure victims continual protection, even if their protective orders are subject to expiration due to logistical scheduling in the courts. Extension of the protective order seeks to keep in force the terms of the order and to ensure the continuity of the order until a judicial authority deems otherwise. Additionally, this legislation will allow police officers and sheriff's deputies to enforce violations of the order past the date of expiration, if the petitioner can provide information that a motion has been made to extend it.

Police officers and sheriff's deputies in Prince George's County recognize the importance of protecting victims during this period. For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 227 and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.