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27th Legislative District



The Senate of Maryland
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**Testimony of Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
Senate Bill 1048 – Office of the Public Defender –
Definition of Serious Offense**

Chairman Smith and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 1048 is a technical bill that alters the definition of a serious offense for purposes of the Office of the Public Defender's representation. Specifically, this bill will remove certain requirements for misdemeanors under the definition of a serious offense.

Currently, a serious offense includes a misdemeanor or offense punishable by confinement for more than three months or a fine of more than \$500. Under this legislation a serious offense will now include a misdemeanor or offense punishable by confinement to be in line with the representation required of the Office of the Public Defender.

Senate Bill 1048 will allow the Public Defender to focus its resources on the most necessary cases. For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Judicial Proceedings Committee for a favorable report on Senate Bill 1048.