
To: Members of The House Judiciary Committee

From: Family & Juvenile Law Section Council (FJLSC)
by Ilene Glickman, Esquire and Daniel Renart, Esquire

Date: February 12, 2020

Subject: **House Bill 624:**
Juvenile Law – Child Interrogation Protection Act

Position: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) FJLSC **supports House Bill 624 – Juvenile Law – Child Interrogation Protection Act.**

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Family and Juvenile Law Section Council (“FJLSC”) of the Maryland State Bar Association (“MSBA”). The FJLSC is the formal representative of the Family and Juvenile Law Section of the MSBA, which promotes the objectives of the MSBA by improving the administration of justice in the field of family and juvenile law and, at the same time, tries to bring together the members of the MSBA who are concerned with family and juvenile laws and in reforms and improvements in such laws through legislation or otherwise. The FJLSC is charged with the general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section and authorized to act for the Section in any way in which the Section itself could act. The Section has over 1,200 attorney members.

HB624 is an important legislation designed to ensure that a parent, guardian or custodian receives ACTUAL notice that a child has been taken into custody and protects the constitutional rights of juveniles who are taken into custody by law enforcement officers. This proposed legislation defines what law enforcement officers must provide to the child’s parents, guardian or custodians when a child is taken into custody. HB624 also requires law enforcement to maintain a record of their efforts of notification or attempts of notification of a parent, guardian, or custodian.

HB624 further instructs the court of appeals to adopt rules regarding age-appropriate language to ensure the child understands his/her rights to remain silent and to be represented by an attorney.



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HB624 also prohibits law enforcement from conducting interrogation of a child until the child has consulted with an attorney and further states that this right cannot be waived even if the child is charged as an adult.

The legislation is very important and will eliminate children from being improperly interrogated by law enforcement and ensures that the child's parent, guardian or custodian receives actual notice that the child has been taken into custody.

For the reason(s) stated above, the MSBA **supports House Bill 624 and urges a favorable committee report.**

Should you have any questions, please contact Ilene Glickman by e-mail at ilene@lawhj.com or by telephone at (410) 821-8718.

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