



## GOVERNOR'S COORDINATING OFFICES

Community Initiatives · Service & Volunteerism · Performance Improvement  
Crime Prevention, Youth, & Victim Services · Small, Minority, & Women Business Affairs  
Banneker-Douglass Museum · Volunteer Maryland · Deaf & Hard of Hearing

**FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES**

March 4, 2020

Chair Clippinger, Vice-Chair Atterbeary, Members of the Committee  
House Judiciary Committee  
Room 101  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: House Bill 914: Gun Theft Felony Act of 2020**

**POSITION: Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the Committee,

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services ("Office") is providing this letter of support for both House Bill 914.

House Bill 914 excludes theft of a firearm from the general theft statute and creates a separate felony offense and penalties for theft of a firearm. First conviction also carries a 5 year maximum prison sentence, with a mandatory minimum of two. For a second or subsequent conviction, the individual would be eligible for up to 10 years in prison with a mandatory minimum sentence of five years.

Both of these bills are similar to legislation introduced by the Governor, SB273: Violent Firearms Offender Act of 2020. SB 273 also set a minimum sentence for theft of a firearm.

These bills would contribute to combating the ongoing crime problem in Baltimore City. In 2018 there were 309 murders in Baltimore City, of which 273 were committed with a firearm. In 2019, there were 348 murders committed in Baltimore, of which 312 were committed with a firearm. In addition there were 771 non-fatal shootings in 2019, an increase of 14% over the 677 in 2018.

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services urges a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.  
Executive Director  
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

For all inquiries, please contact  
Andy Baranauskas, Legislative Affairs Manager  
410-855-2538  
[Anthony.Baranauskas@maryland.gov](mailto:Anthony.Baranauskas@maryland.gov)