



# Maryland Retired School Personnel Association

8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A • Odenton, Maryland 21113  
Phone: 410.551.1517 • Email: [mrspa@mrspa.org](mailto:mrspa@mrspa.org)  
[www.mrspa.org](http://www.mrspa.org)

## Senate Bill 407 / House Bill 745

### In Support Of

**Office of the Attorney General – Senior and Vulnerable Adult Asset Recovery Unit**

**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**

**Hearing: February 12, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.**

**House Judiciary Committee**

**Hearing: March 5, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.**

The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) Legislative Priorities include:

- Preventing abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and supports legislation to reduce crime and violence against seniors.

### **Senate Bill 407 and House Bill 745 - Office of the Attorney General—Senior and Vulnerable Adult Asset Recovery Unit**

These bills establish the Senior and Vulnerable Adult Asset Recovery Unit in the Office of the Attorney General. They also require the Governor to include funds in the budget to carry out this act. Specifically:

- Establishes the purpose of the unit
- Authorizes the Unit to bring civil actions for damages against a person who commits crimes against vulnerable adults and seniors.
- Directs that in the year 2022, and each fiscal year thereafter, the state budget shall include at least \$250,000 to carry out this act, and directs that these funds be used:
  - To hire new staff for the Unit
  - To investigate and assist prosecution by the Unit.

It should be noted that these bills are two of several being proposed in this session of the legislature related to the prevention of abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults. They recognize the concern for the protection of the elderly from abuse, exploitation and neglect. This population is steadily increasing in Maryland and the nation. It is the purpose of this Unit to protect seniors and vulnerable adults from financial crimes under 8-801 of the Criminal Law Article.

**On behalf of the almost 14,000 members of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, we urge your support of Senate Bill 407 and House Bill 745.**

Sincerely,

Ann Marie Downey  
President

Virginia Crespo  
Legislative Aide