



State of Maryland
Office of the Attorney General

February 2, 2021

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair, Judiciary Committee
FROM: Carrie J. Williams, Assistant Attorney General
RE: Attorney General's Support for HB 489 - Courts - Wiretapping -
Misconduct in Office

The Attorney General urges the Judiciary Committee to report favorably on House Bill 489. House Bill 489 adds misconduct in office to the list of crimes for which the Attorney General's Office, the State Prosecutor, or any State's Attorney may seek a court order authorizing a wiretap.

Investigating officials and holding them to account when they commit misconduct is crucial to maintaining the public trust. House Bill 489 gives prosecutors a valuable tool to assist in those investigations. Intercepting communications can lead to important evidence and bring public officials who are committing misconduct to justice.

The Attorney General urges the Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report for House Bill 489.

cc: Members of the Committee