



Maryland State's Attorneys' Association

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DATE: January 19, 2021

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BILL NUMBER: SB 108

POSITION: Support

The Maryland State's Attorney's Association (MSAA) supports SB 108.

SB 108 expands the universe of crimes identified as "crimes of violence" under Criminal Law, § 14-101(a) to include behaviors involving the use of a firearm while in possession of illicit narcotics with the intent to distribute.

The specific purpose of Criminal Law § 14-101 is to identify specific crimes that would be subject to sentencing enhancements for repeated violations and is designed to deter repeated perpetrations of similar violent acts by threat of a longer period of confinement. The statute is also utilized liberally throughout the Criminal Law Article to define acts that serve as aggravating factors to enhance the degree of seriousness to some crimes, such as burglary.

Dealers of controlled dangerous substances frequently utilize firearms during the course of their criminal activity. Such utilization sometimes results in the use of a firearm to commit more egregious violent acts. To prevent and deter such actions from occurring, a common sense solution would be the incorporation of this behavior into the category of crimes as defined under Criminal Law, § 14-101(a)

For these reasons the MSAA requests a favorable report on SB 108.