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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony for HB 195
Judiciary Committee

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, Madame Vice – Chair, and esteemed members of the committee.

I am Delegate C.T Wilson and it's a privilege to be here to present:

House Bill 195 entitled Criminal Procedure – District Court Commissioners – Issuance of Arrest Warrant

Bill Overview:

Providing that only a police officer may file a statement of charges with a District Court commissioner; and altering a District Court commissioner's duty to exclude issuing arrest warrants.

Bill Outline:

1. A commissioner shall receive applications and determine probable cause for the issuance of charging documents.
2. A commissioner shall advise arrested persons of their constitutional rights, set bond or release them if circumstances warrant and conduct investigations and inquiries into the circumstances of any matter presented to the commissioner to determine probable causes exists.
3. In each county one or more commissioners must be available for the convenience of the public and police in obtaining and charging documents, warrants, or criminal summons and to advise arrested person of their rights required by law.
4. A commissioner may exercise the powers of office in any county to which the commissioner is assigned to by the Chief Judge or designee.
5. The chief judge of the District Court may authorize one or more commissioners to perform the duties of a commissioner regarding persons arrested in a county other than the county in which the commissioner resides and is appointed to.
6. Only a police officer may file an application for a statement of charges with a District Court commissioner.

Conclusion: In conclusion, this bill establishes that only police officers may file a statement of charges with a District Court commissioner. This changes commissioner's duties in excluding issuing of arrests warrants.

Thank you for your time and I request a favorable report for **HB 195**. I am open to any questions or concerns that you may have regarding this bill.