

Bill Number: HB 445

**Scott D. Shellenberger, State's Attorney for Baltimore County
Support**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF SCOTT D. SHELLENBERGER,
STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY,
IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 445
CHARGING PROCEDURES - CITATIONS

I write in support of House Bill 445 that expands the crimes for which a law enforcement officer may issue a citation in lieu of an arrest.

Over the last several years the Legislature has first allowed and then expanded the crimes for which a citation may be issued for minor crimes as outlined in Criminal Procedure Article §4-101.

House Bill 445 is a common sense extension of that statute to include misdemeanors with a penalty of 90 days or less that do not involve serious injury or an immediate health risk. House Bill 445 also extends the use of a citation to the possession of other drugs in addition to marijuana.

Please remember that there are other requirements that must be met in order for the officer to decide if they can issue a citation, including that failure to charge by statement of charges does not pose a threat to public safety.

I urge a favorable report.