



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

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**HB 1013**

**DATE: March 8, 2022**

**SPONSOR: Delegate Wilkins**

**ASSIGNED TO: Appropriations**

**CONTACT PERSON: Sara Morningstar** (sara.morningstar@montgomerycountymd.gov)

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

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### **Public Safety – Safer Communities Fund and Task Force – Establishment**

House Bill 1013 would establish a Safer Communities Fund and Task Force that aligns with national efforts to reorient public safety and promote investments in non-carceral strategies for safety. A non-lapsing fund would be created to provide grants to local governments to support mental health crisis response teams, safety infrastructure, and other efforts to prevent a police response to low-level crimes and noncriminal incidences. The bill explicitly prohibits the use of funds to increase the size of police departments.

Montgomery County is committed to building more equitable and inclusive communities by promoting safe neighborhoods that are better for all residents. Under the bill, local governments will be able to apply for grant funds that can be used to advance innovative community safety projects that focus on options to respond to non-criminal calls and effective alternatives to the use of force and incidents of arrests.

House Bill 1013 will take Maryland another step forward in its effort to reshape public safety. Montgomery County would urge the Committee to adopt a favorable report.