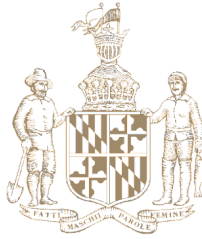


JHEANELLE WILKINS  
Legislative District 20  
Montgomery County

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Ways and Means Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 8th, 2022

**House Bill 1013 - Public Safety - Safer Communities Fund and Task Force - Establishment**

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present **House Bill 1013 - Public Safety - Safer Communities Fund and Task Force - Establishment**, which would establish a competitive grant program to state and local governments to begin making robust, holistic investments in non-carceral safety.

This legislation seeks to help jurisdictions analyze and acquire the funds to implement responses to crime that are broader than more police and arrests. The bill establishes a Safer Communities Task Force that will coordinate and promote holistic, non-carceral approaches to community safety, including state wide and across the Departments of Health and Human Services; DHCD; Governor; House, Senate, Labor, Commerce, DPSC MDOT; MD Dept. of Education, to provide grants, make recommendations, provide technical assistance, and promote non-carceral strategies to increase safety.

This fund can not be used to increase the size of a police force, as well as increasing the use of police or surveillance in a community. Crime prevention through environmental design is the idea that you can create a safer community through environmental factors. This approach to safety seeks to utilize mental health crisis teams, increased lighting systems in public areas, provide clear landscaping for proper sight, and increase a sense of community for residents throughout parks and recreation areas. Each Safer Communities Task Force includes individuals who are directly impacted by criminal-legal harm, as well as, community-based service leaders, diverse individuals of the jurisdiction, and those who work in communities most impacted by safety issues as well as incarceration. This task force must also engage the public, hold hearings, and make recommendations on how to fund the safety projects

House Bill 1013 will allow local governments to receive a grant to make their communities safer through non-carceral strategies with the assistance of a fund. Maryland citizens should be allowed to live in safer communities, without increasing the presence of police. I urge the committee to give a **favorable report** for **House Bill 1013 - Public Safety - Safer Communities Fund and Task Force - Establishment**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jheanelle Wilkins'.

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins