

HB1013 - 3.8.22 -- Public Safety - Safer Communiti

Uploaded by: Donald Fry

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

**HOUSE BILL 1013 – PUBLIC SAFETY - SAFER COMMUNITIES
FUND AND TASK FORCE - ESTABLISHMENT**

Sponsor – Delegate Wilkins

March 8, 2022

**DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

Position: Support

House Bill 1013 would create a Safer Communities Fund, which would provide grant assistance to local governments to promote robust and holistic investments in noncarceral safety. The Fund would be a special, nonlapsing fund administered by the Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. It would be used to support mental health response crisis teams, safety infrastructure, including lighting, pilot programs that shift the response to low–level crimes or noncriminal incidences from police, and other programs aimed at preventing a police response to low–level crimes and noncriminal incidences.

The level of violence in the state, and in particular Baltimore City, is unacceptable and substantive changes are required to improve public safety and ensure economic vitality and competitiveness and increase security among Maryland citizens. Improving public safety has been identified by the Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) as a key economic growth issue that needs to be urgently addressed.

The GBC has recommended a two-pronged approach to reduce violent crime. The first prong addresses crime control through programs in areas of improved policing, better technology, and other enhanced public safety initiatives including better coordination among law enforcement agencies. The second prong - crime prevention - must be instituted simultaneously and with the same degree of emphasis as crime control efforts. It is critically important to address the root societal causes of crime with programs that address poverty, lack of employment, need for job training programs, and an increase in after-school programs, etc. The GBC equally backs these types of initiatives with the same weight that is afforded crime control strategies.

The GBC supports House Bill 1013 because it provides local governments grant funding to fund mental health response crisis teams and to improve infrastructure to create a safer physical environment. It also enables local governments to pilot innovative programs that don’t require the use of police for low-level and noncriminal incidents, enabling law enforcement to focus on more serious criminal activity.

Public safety is an essential component to a thriving economy. The additional prevention programs funded through this new grant are an excellent way to address the root causes of violence and promote a competitive business environment.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on House Bill 1013.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 67-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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HB1013-APP_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: D'Paul Nibber

Position: FAV



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

House Bill 1013

Public Safety - Safer Communities Fund and Task Force - Establishment

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Appropriations Committee

Date: March 8, 2022

From: D'Paul Nibber

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1013. This bill would establish a fund available to local governments in support of programs preventing a police response to low-level crimes and noncriminal incidences.

Many counties have already begun studying and implementing alternatives to law enforcement to address crime. Several of the initiatives supported by HB 1013 are already underway in our counties, including the deployment of behavioral health crisis response units and the construction of lighting infrastructure and safer public passages. This bill would have the added effect of potentially reducing the burden placed on stretched county law enforcement.

Altogether, as the State and its counties shift toward alternative responses to crime, HB 1013 would bolster current and future efforts to protect Marylanders. For this reason, MACo **SUPPORTS** HB 1013 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.

HB1013-2022 JW Written Testimony.pdf

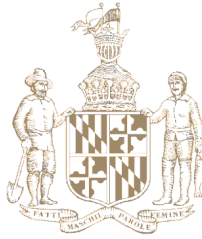
Uploaded by: Jheanelle Wilkins

Position: FAV

JHEANELLE WILKINS
Legislative District 20
Montgomery County

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Ways and Means Committee



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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

HB 1013 - MoCo_Morningstar_FAV (GA 22).pdf

Uploaded by: Sara Morningstar

Position: FAV



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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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

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.