



State of Maryland
Office of the Attorney General

February 22, 2022

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair, Judicial Proceedings
Committee

FROM: Carrie J. Williams, Assistant Attorney General

RE: Attorney General's Support for SB 861

The Attorney General urges the Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on SB 861. Senate Bill 861 creates a Statewide Firearms Enforcement Center within the Maryland State Police Department. The Center will track, screen, and vet all firearm crimes in Maryland. Specifically, it will create and maintain a database that tracks the number, type, and source of firearms used in crimes as well as the age of the perpetrator, jurisdiction of residence, and jurisdiction of the crime.

Information is key to prevention. We cannot effectively combat gun violence without understanding when, where, and how gun crimes occur.¹ If we know who is committing gun crimes and where the guns are coming from, we can target preventative initiatives appropriately.

The Attorney General urges a favorable report on SB 861.

cc: Members of the Committee

¹ See Basia E. Lopez, Paul A. Haskins, "The Fight Against Rampant Gun Violence: Data-Driven Scientific Research Will Light the Way," National Institute of Justice (Dec. 2, 2021) (available at <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/fight-against-rampant-gun-violence-data-driven-scientific-research-will-light-way>) (NIJ scientists conclude that information about gun violence is valuable to prevention).