



State of Maryland  
Office of the Attorney General

January 25, 2022

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair, Judiciary Committee  
FROM: Carrie J. Williams, Assistant Attorney General  
RE: Attorney General's Support for HB 148

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The Attorney General urges the Judiciary Committee to report favorably on House Bill 148. House Bill 148 would expand the definition of “stalking” to include electronic communication or using a device to track a person’s location without knowledge or consent.

Modern “smart phones” with GPS location capability and other GPS tracking devices are more commonplace and affordable every year. While these devices have increased personal and public safety in many important ways, they can present a grave safety risk for victims of domestic violence and stalking.

By surreptitiously placing a GPS tracking device in a victim’s car or purse, or activating the location software on a victim’s cell phone, a stalker can access a victim’s precise location at any point in time. This invasion of privacy is not only emotionally distressing, it can be a matter of life or death for someone fleeing an abusive partner or stalker.

House Bill 148 modernizes Maryland law by including electronic communications and non-consensual tracking devices in the definition of “stalking.” The Attorney General urges a favorable report on House Bill 148.

cc: Members of the Committee