



CHANGING  
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## GOVERNOR'S COORDINATING OFFICES

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Crime Prevention, Youth, & Victim Services · Small, Minority, & Women Business Affairs  
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February 8, 2022

Chair Luke Clippinger  
Judiciary Committee  
Room 101  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: HB 412 - State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy – Plea Agreements and Annual Report (The Judicial Transparency Act of 2022)**

**POSITION: Support**

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services is providing this letter of support for House Bill 412: State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy – Plea Agreements and Annual Report (The Judicial Transparency Act of 2022).

This legislation requires the State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy to include new information to their existing annual report. If this legislation is enacted, the report shall now include, for each crime of violence as defined in § 14–101 of the Criminal Law Article the following: (1) the crime of which the defendant was convicted, (2) the sentence imposed, (3) the applicable range of sentencing guidelines, (4) disposition of the case, (5) convictions in which a portion of the sentence is suspended, the amount of time suspended and the percentage of sentence suspended, (6) reason for departure from sentencing guidelines, if applicable, (7) court and judicial circuit with jurisdiction over the case, and (8) the sentencing judge.

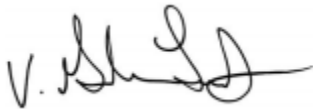
The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services emphasizes the importance of data in criminal justice policy and following evidence-based practices to ensure a safer Maryland. This legislation is an example of useful data to criminal justice stakeholders in law enforcement and the judicial system to determine and evaluate if pleas are guideline compliant according to the Maryland State Commission on Sentencing Policy. Additionally, tracking this information will bolster public confidence

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that members of the judiciary are holding violent criminals accountable for their actions. With the spike in violent crime throughout the state, the need for accountability in all levels of the justice system cannot be understated.

For these reasons, the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services supports House Bill 412 and urges a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.  
Executive Director  
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services