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March 1, 2022

Chair Maggie McIntosh
House Appropriations Committee
Room 121
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 1023/SB 785: Department of Legislative Services - Collection of Information Related to Public Safety, Criminal Justice, Corrections, and Juvenile Services

POSITION: Information

Dear Chair McIntosh and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services ("Office") is providing this letter of information for House Bill 1023/Senate Bill 785: Department of Legislative Services - Collection of Information Related to Public Safety, Criminal Justice, Corrections, and Juvenile Services.

This bill requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Department of State Police, the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission, and the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services to provide certain information related to public safety and criminal justice in a certain manner to the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) on or before October 31 each year; etc.

The Office would have to report to DLS, in electronic format, de-identified and disaggregated by incident, information collected in accordance with: (1) § 3-528 of the Public Safety Article; and (2) § 25-113 of the Transportation Article. § 3-528 of the Public Safety Article deals with reporting of each use of force incident involving a police officer employed by the law enforcement agency that resulted in a monetary settlement or judgment against the law enforcement agency. The statute says the information reported shall include: (i) the age, gender, ethnicity, and race of each individual involved in the incident; (ii) the age, gender, ethnicity, and race of the police officer involved in the incident; (iii) a brief description of the circumstances surrounding the incident; (iv) the date, time, and location of the incident; (v) the date on which the civil action was filed; (vi) the date on which the civil action was resolved; and

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(vii) the amount of the settlement or judgment awarded to the plaintiff. The Office by this statute already reports this data annually to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article and posts it on its website. This would replicate the reporting requirement under a different statute to the Department of Legislative Services.

Furthermore, § 25-113 of the Transportation Article, relates to reporting and recording of data associated with race-based traffic stops. According to this statute, (1) The Maryland Statistical Analysis Center shall analyze the annual reports of law enforcement agencies submitted under subsection (e) of this section based on a methodology developed in consultation with the Police Training Commission; (2) The Maryland Statistical Analysis Center shall submit a report of the findings to the Governor, the General Assembly in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, and each law enforcement agency before September 1 of each year.

The Office by this statute already reports this data annually to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article and posts it on its website. This would replicate the reporting requirement under a different statute to the Department of Legislative Services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Yesim Karaman".

Yesim K. Karaman
Chief of Staff
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services