

**Bill Number: SB 236**  
**Scott D. Shellenberger, State's Attorney for Baltimore County**  
**Support**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF SCOTT D. SHELLENBERGER,**  
**STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY,**  
**IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 236**  
**EVIDENCE – WITNESS CREDIBILITY – FORGERY CONVICTION**

I write in support of Senate Bill 236 which would add forgery to the statute that always allows a witness to be impeached.

Maryland Rule §5-609 allows a witness to be impeached if convicted of an infamous crime. Typically, these are crimes like theft that go towards someone that is less likely to tell the truth. Under §5-609 you can only impeach a witness for a criminal conviction like that within 15 years.

Court and Judicial Proceedings §10-905 was passed to always allow the crime of perjury to be used to impeach a witness. There is not time limitation. Senate Bill 236 adds forgery to the crimes that can always be used to impeach a witness's credibility.

I urge a favorable report.