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**BILL NO.: SB 615**

**TITLE:** Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services – Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Reporting Program

**SPONSOR:** Senator Hettleman

**COMMITTEE:** Judicial Proceedings

**POSITION:** **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

**DATE:** March 9, 2023

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** SB 615 - Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services – Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Reporting Program. This legislation would provide more structured tracking and reporting for sexual assault evidence kits (SAKs), with one amendment.

Through funding made available by the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the Baltimore County Police Department recently launched Maryland's first Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence – Inventory, Tracking, and Reporting (SAFE-ITR) website. This public-facing tool allows users to track the handling of sexual assault kits (SAKs) within the department's possession. The site also provides resources and 60-day reports that detail the progress the Baltimore County Police Department Forensic Services Section and Criminal Investigations Bureau continue to make.

Baltimore County's SAFE-ITR website shows the workflow for processing SAKs, and reports the number of kits at various steps in the process. The website also provides information and links to resources for victims and survivors of sexual assault. SB 615 will provide for a statewide accounting of SAKs, and will promote the orderly management of inventory, tracking, and reporting across all Maryland law enforcement agencies.

The County respectfully requests that the word SUBPOENA be deleted on Page 3, Line 5. Otherwise the protections provided on page 2 of the bill to keep information confidential could be easily defeated, and law enforcement agencies would have to devote significant resources seeking to quash subpoenas filed by individuals who should not have access to the information.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report on SB 615. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at [jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov).