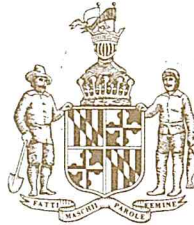


MICHAEL A. JACKSON
Legislative District 27
Calvert, Charles and
Prince George's Counties



Annapolis Office
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 West
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3700 · 301-858-3700
800-492-7122 Ext. 3700
Michael.Jackson@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee
Subcommittees
Chair, Pensions
Public Safety, Transportation, and
Environment

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

District Office
250 Merrimac Court
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 115

***JUVENILE COURT – CONCURRENT JURISDICTION –
JUVENILE OFFENSES ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS***

JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 8, 2023

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 115 is a very straightforward bill designed to better serve juveniles in the court system by establishing a mechanism for concurrent jurisdiction with our federal courts. This bill would establish concurrent jurisdiction for the federal courts sitting here in Maryland over proceedings related to the violation of federal law committed by children (who are at least 13 years of age) on Maryland military installations if the federal court waives exclusive jurisdiction and the violation is also a crime under Maryland state law.

Without concurrent jurisdiction, juvenile misconduct in children and youth, is adjudicated in the federal court system, which lacks appropriate juvenile-focused resources and often tries juveniles as adults. If concurrent jurisdiction is established, offenses can be adjudicated through the state juvenile court system, allowing for more appropriate sentencing and case management outcomes.

As someone who spent the majority of his professional career in the public safety realm, issues relating to juvenile justice are of particular interest to me. When offenses are committed by young people, it is a clearly different situation than when the same offenses are committed by an adult. Our state courts in Maryland are simply better equipped to handle these incidences than the federal court system and they are better equipped to adjudicate (and often rehabilitate) the young people involved.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 115.