



## Maryland State's Attorneys' Association

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Rich Gibson  
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BILL NO: HB 748

TITLE: Law Enforcement Officers - Sexual Contact With Person in Custody - Penalty

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Mr. Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

Our office echoes the testimony of our colleagues in Prince George's County:

When a police officer who is in control of a person's freedom uses that freedom as a sexual bargaining chip, either implicitly or explicitly, they have committed an aggravating act at least as serious as those enumerated in Sexual Offense in the Third Degree. It is not something that any police officer might do unintentionally or by accident but rather is a deliberate abuse of the power and authority entrusted in them by the people of Maryland, and a deliberate decision to wield that power and authority for their own sexual gratification.

This conduct is egregious and should be categorized as a felony under Third Degree Sex Offense with a penalty of 10 years.

For these reasons, the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association supports the SB748

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joyce King".

Joyce King

MSAA Legislative Committee

Co-Chair MSAA Special Victims Committee

Frederick County State's Attorney Chief Counsel