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BILL NO.: **HB 859**

TITLE: Criminal Law - Private Home Detention Monitoring - Notification

SPONSOR: Delegate Smith

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 7, 2023

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 859 – Criminal Law - Private Home Detention Monitoring - Notification. This legislation would require a private home detention monitoring agency to immediately notify the court if a defendant on home monitoring leaves the premises.

Current statute requires that, when a defendant subject to home monitoring has left the premises, the court must be notified the following business day. Unfortunately, this means that there are cases in which a defendant has been missing for days and, due to extended weekends or holidays, the court is not notified until it is too late for prompt action.

House Bill 859 would remedy this issue by requiring that, on days or hours in which the court is not open for business, a private home detention monitoring agency immediately notifies the local duty judge, the court that issued the order, and the Division of Parole and Probation. Private home detention monitoring is intended to allow the defendant to await trial in their home while keeping the setting as controlled and secure as possible. This legislation would ensure that the spirit of this program is upheld by ensuring that any deviation from the order of the court is recognized and addressed right away.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 859. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.