

JUSTIN READY
Legislative District 5
Carroll County

MINORITY WHIP
Finance Committee



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 315
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3683 · 301-858-3683
800-492-7122 Ext. 3683
Justin.Ready@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 26, 2024

Senator Justin Ready
SB 1108 Carroll County – Deputy Clerk or Deputy Sheriff – Oath of Office

Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Crosby and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

Senate Bill 1108 was requested by the Carroll County Clerk of Court. It would make a change to the current oath that is prescribed by current Maryland Law for Deputy Sheriffs and Deputy Clerks in Carroll County. The Sheriff of Carroll County and the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Carroll County would prefer that their Deputies take the oath listed in the *Maryland Constitution Article I – Elective Franchise, Section 9 - Universal Citation*. This oath is taken by most elected officials and Governor appointees. It is also administered to Deputy Sheriffs and Deputy Clerks in Montgomery County and Washington County.

The current oath does not align with the responsibilities or the scope of services which Deputy Sheriffs and Deputy Clerks provide to the citizens of Carroll County, does not require the Deputies to swear or affirm that they will support the *United States Constitution*, to bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland and support its Constitution, and does not require the Deputies to fulfill their duties (or execute their office) according to the *Maryland Constitution* and Maryland law without partiality or prejudice.

The Sheriff of Carroll County and the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Carroll County would prefer their Deputies be administered an oath which requires Deputies to perform all duties diligently and faithfully. The modification of *Maryland Statute Courts & Proceedings Title 2 - Court Personnel, Subtitle - Officers, Oaths, and Bonds, Section 2-104 - Oaths or Affirmations (d)*. would be simple and only affect Carroll County.

The change in procedure of oath administration would fall solely on the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Carroll County. There would be no fiscal increase for this change in code and no additional training costs associated with the change.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 1108.

