



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 1111 – *Criminal Organizations – Criminal Prohibitions, Civil Actions, and Forfeiture*

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice Chairman, and to my esteemed colleagues on the Judicial Proceedings Committee. I am Senator C. Anthony Muse, and I am here today to encourage this distinguished body to vote favorably on Senate Bill 1111, as amended.

SB 1111 is being introduced during a critical time— a time where we are seeing inexhaustible violence resulting from both structured and more loosely organized criminal enterprises within our State. These groups are commonly referred to as “street crews” and typically consists of adults who recruit minors to participate in criminal activities.

In Prince George’s County and throughout the State, there has specifically been notable increases in the number of crimes involving carjacking, theft, drug distribution, and economic crimes. As amended, this bill would provide much needed enhancements to our current gang statute in Maryland.

Senate Bill 1111, as amended proposes to expand underlying offenses under 9-801(g) to include:

- **REMOVAL OR FALSIFICATION OF VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER UNDER § 14-107 OF THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE;** For example, establishments operating as chop shops that acquire vehicles or parts from stolen or carjacked automobiles will face stricter legal scrutiny regarding the trafficking of stolen vehicles.

Furthermore, the increasing involvement of firearms in criminal offenses is a growing concern in Prince George’s County. The suggested amendments would enable the prosecution of all individuals who, directly or indirectly, engage in criminal acts involving firearms on behalf of or alongside a criminal group.

Therefore, Senate Bill 1111 amends the underlying offenses section to also include:

- **Criminal Law Article § 4-204 (USE OF A FIREARM IN COMMISSION OF A CRIME) and Public Safety Article § 5-133 (PROHIBITED PERSON IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM)**

While the State's Attorney's Office has successfully prosecuted numerous cases against members of organized groups committing auto theft and carjacking within Prince George's County, under the amended Organized Crime statute, the proposed legal modifications will bolster their efforts in prosecuting individuals and entities that gain financially from these criminal endeavors.

This bill will provide us with a unique opportunity to update the current code to better address the types of organized crime that we are confronting in Maryland.

Therefore, I urge this committee for a FAVORABLE report for SB 1111 as amended.