

CHRIS WEST  
Legislative District 42  
Baltimore and Carroll Counties

Judicial Proceedings Committee



Annapolis Office  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 322  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3648 · 301-858-3648  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3648  
Chris.West@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

The Maryland State Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
2 East Miller Senate Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: Senate Bill 319: Regulated Firearms - Department of State Police - Reporting Requirements**

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

Last year, the General Assembly passed House Bill 824, a rather simple bill which, in relevant part, tasked the State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy with collecting, compiling and making annual reports relating to regulated firearms violations.

Along with Delegate Bartlett, I am a member of the Criminal Sentencing Commission. At one of our meetings last summer, the Executive Director of the Commission gave us a report about House Bill 824. The gist of his message was that the Commission did not have access to the information demanded in House Bill 824 and that it would have to hire staff to visit other State agencies to collect the information. He suggested that the Maryland State Police probably has the information readily available. Delegate Bartlett and I stated that we could just amend the law to re-assign the responsibility for collecting, compiling and reporting about the information,

As drafted, therefore, Senate Bill 319 simply transfers the responsibility of reporting the information from the Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy to the Department of State Police.

Last week, however, I had two groups visit my office. First the State Police came by and told me that they don't have the information either. Then Chief Judge Morrissey of the District Court of Maryland came to see me and told me that the Judiciary has the information right at hand and could easily collect, compile and report it in accordance with House Bill 824. So you will find an amendment at your desks altering Senate Bill 319 to assign the reporting responsibility to the Maryland Judiciary.

I appreciate the Committee's consideration of Senate Bill 319 and will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.