

**ANTHONY G. BROWN**  
*Attorney General*



**CANDACE MCLAREN LANHAM**  
*Chief of Staff*

**CAROLYN A. QUATTROCKI**  
*Deputy Attorney General*

**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

FACSIMILE NO.  
(410) 576-7036

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO.  
(410) 576-6592

February 9, 2024

**TO:** The Honorable Will Smith, Jr.  
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Tiffany Johnson Clark  
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

**RE:** Senate Bill 617 – Task Force to Study Transparency Standards for State's Attorneys and the State's Attorney Case Management System Grant Fund  
**(Favorable With Amendments)**

---

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) urges the Judicial Proceedings Committee to give **Senate Bill 617 – Task Force to Study Transparency Standards for State's Attorneys and the State's Attorney Case Management System Grant Fund**, sponsored by Senator Charles Sydnor, a favorable with amendments report. Senate Bill 617 extends the existing Task Force for three years and adds three members to the Task Force (the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Office of the Public Defender). Additionally, the bill establishes the State's Attorney Case Management System Grant Fund to help fund and support the modernization of software and computer systems used to collect and manage data on cases.

The Task Force to Study Transparency Standards for State's Attorneys was established in 2022 and issued its first report in December 2023. In the report, the Task Force found (1) a substantial need for State's Attorneys' offices to modernize their case management software systems and to establish statewide standards on data collection and (2) that fiscal support is necessary for financially stressed State's Attorneys' offices to be able to update their case management software systems. Senate Bill 617 addresses these concerns by creating the State's Attorney Case Management System Grant Fund to help State's Attorneys' offices afford modern case management systems.

The Office of the Attorney General would like to offer an amendment to Senate Bill 617 that would include the Office of the State Prosecutor and the units conducting criminal prosecution within the Office of the Attorney General as eligible entities to receive grants from the Fund. The

Office of the State Prosecutor and the Office of the Attorney General experience many of the same difficulties that State's Attorneys' offices experience when it comes to case management software systems. One of the purposes of Task Force is to create state-wide transparency standards and to do that, support for all prosecutorial offices in the State is necessary.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General urges a favorable with amendments report on **Senate Bill 617**.