

**KATHY SZELIGA**  
*Legislative District 7A*  
Baltimore County

Health and Government  
Operations Committee

Government Operations and  
Health Facilities Subcommittee

Insurance and Pharmaceuticals  
Subcommittee

Rules and Executive  
Nominations Committee



*Annapolis Office*  
The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 322  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3698 · 301-858-3698  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3698  
Fax 410-841-3023 · 301-858-3023  
Kathy.Szeliga@house.state.md.us

*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

## **HB 319 Juvenile Justice Restoration Act of 2024** **Favorable with Amendments**

Thursday, February 8, 2024

**HB 319 - The Juvenile Justice Restoration Act** seeks to restore balance in the changes made over the last several years and ensure appropriate consequences for young offenders. Specifically, this bill includes:

- Interrogation - allows parental consent as a substitute for the **required** consultation with an attorney. (please note – see amendment #1 for bill drafting error)
- Juveniles at least ten years old who use firearms in the commission of a crime will come under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court system.
- Provide that upon the child’s third arrest for a crime that does not fall within the category of “crimes of violence” or a crime committed with a firearm, the child will come under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court system (this would include car thefts). A more restrictive version of this bill to restore the language holding all juveniles accountable for their crimes is preferred, as I introduced with Delegate Lauren Arian last year.

**AMENDMENT #2** – It has become abundantly clear that there is a **juvenile sex offender loophole**. The recent news report of a horrific rape of a three-year-old girl by a 15-year-old has revealed that immediate action is required. A 15-year-old boy was required to attend school in-person and was, and potentially still is, attending Patterson High in Baltimore City. Our public-school systems have indicated they are not able to keep a juvenile sex offender from in-person attendance. There is no juvenile sex offender registry, and juvenile records are not easily accessible.

### **WHY DO WE NEED THIS BILL?**

After the 2022 juvenile crime reform bill, HB 459, Juvenile Justice Reform, was passed, there has been a growing wave of juvenile crime that impacts ALL Marylanders. Juvenile crime has become a massive problem across our state. Specific categories of dangerous crimes are climbing sharply. Juvenile carjackings in Maryland have jumped by 85%, and handgun violations

statewide were up 220% between 2021 and 2023. We are glad to see the leadership in Annapolis introducing similar bills on juvenile crime.

**ACCOUNTABILITY!** It is time to restore balance in our public policy and protect our residents, visitors, and communities. Juveniles who commit crimes need to know that antisocial and illegal behavior will have consequences. Law enforcement and State Attorneys also want these laws tightened up.

**CLOSE THE JUVENILE SEX OFFENDER LOOPHOLE BY PASSING THE  
AMENDMENT!**

Please vote **favorably with amendments** on HB319  
**Juvenile Justice Restoration Act of 2024**