



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE CITY

February 08, 2024

The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chairman  
House Judiciary Committee  
6 Bladen Street, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Support of HB556 Juvenile Law – Violations of Electronic Monitoring**

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to express my support for HB556 Juvenile Law – Violations of Electronic Monitoring – Notification. As Baltimore City State's Attorney and an advocate for juvenile justice reform, I believe this bill is a crucial step in ensuring the safety and well-being of our youth while promoting accountability and transparency within our justice system.

House Bill 556 proposes an essential amendment that requires the Department of Juvenile Services to promptly notify the juvenile court, the State's Attorney, and the defense counsel within 24 hours after a child's violation of an electronic monitoring agreement under certain circumstances. This provision is vital in addressing instances where juveniles breach their electronic monitoring agreements, thereby enabling timely intervention and appropriate responses to mitigate potential risks or further violations.

One recent incident underscores the urgent need for improved monitoring and notification procedures. Court documents have revealed that a teen, who was under state supervision with GPS monitoring, was linked to a deadly mass shooting. On the night of the tragedy, the teen allegedly fired several shots into a crowd, resulting in deaths and injury to others. This incident raises significant questions about the effectiveness of juvenile home monitoring and highlights the importance of strengthening oversight measures to prevent such tragedies from recurring.

By enhancing communication and collaboration among key stakeholders, including the juvenile court, law enforcement, and legal representatives, House Bill 556 facilitates a more coordinated and effective approach to addressing juvenile offenses involving electronic monitoring. This proactive notification mechanism not only promotes the swift administration of justice but also fosters accountability and support for the rehabilitation and reintegration of youth offenders into their communities.



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Furthermore, House Bill 556 aligns with the principles of fairness, due process, and rehabilitation inherent in our juvenile justice system. By ensuring that all relevant parties are promptly informed of juvenile infractions, we can better tailor interventions and services to meet the needs of individual youth while safeguarding public safety.

In conclusion, I urge you to support House Bill 556 and its efforts to strengthen our juvenile justice system through improved notification procedures for electronic monitoring violations. By enacting this legislation, we demonstrate our commitment to promoting the well-being and future success of our youth, while upholding the principles of accountability and justice.

Thank you for considering my views on this important matter. I trust that you will give House Bill 556 the serious attention it deserves and take decisive action to support its passage.

Sincerely,

*Ivan J. Bates*

Ivan J. Bates  
State's Attorney for Baltimore City