

GARY SIMMONS  
Legislative District 12B  
Anne Arundel County

Judiciary Committee  
Subcommittees

Criminal Law and Procedure  
Family and Juvenile Law



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 152  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3581 • 301-858-3581  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3581  
Gary.Simmons@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 5, 2024

Judiciary Committee

RE: Testimony in Support of HB565 - Investigation of Death of an Incarcerated Individual – Reporting

Dear Chairman and members of the committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB565, which addresses the critical need for an Investigation of the Death of an Incarcerated Individual. As a State Delegate, I believe that the proposed legislation is a crucial step toward ensuring transparency, accountability, and justice within our correctional system.

The primary purpose of HB565 is to establish a comprehensive process for the investigation of deaths involving incarcerated individuals and to mandate the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to provide specific information related to such incidents. This legislation represents a commendable effort to address a pressing issue within our criminal justice system and to safeguard the rights and well-being of those in custody.


One of the critical strengths of HB565 is its emphasis on thorough and impartial investigations into the circumstances surrounding the death of an incarcerated individual. By requiring the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to provide specific information, the legislation aims to enhance transparency and accountability, fostering public trust in the criminal justice system.

Furthermore, the legislation ensures that lessons are learned from each incident, leading to necessary reforms and improvements within the correctional system. The dissemination of this information serves the interests of justice and contributes to the broader goal of preventing similar incidents in the future.

In conclusion, I urge my committee to support and advance HB565, recognizing its importance in addressing the need for comprehensive investigations into the deaths of incarcerated individuals. This legislation is a significant stride toward creating a more just, transparent, and accountable correctional system. Your commitment to the well-being and rights of those in custody is vital for upholding our society's justice principles.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I trust that you will give due consideration to the positive impact that HB565 can have on our criminal justice system.

Sincerely,

  
Delegate Gary Simmons