



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE CITY

March 5th, 2024

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

RE: Support of HB1183 – Criminal Procedure - District Court Commissioners and False Statements

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Committee members,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB1183, which aims to amend certain provisions concerning Criminal Procedure – District Court Commissioners and False Statements within the state of Maryland. As Baltimore City's State's Attorney, I believe that this bill is crucial in enhancing the integrity of our legal system and safeguarding the rights of individuals.

House Bill 1183 proposes several important changes, the most significant being the prohibition of District Court commissioners from issuing arrest warrants to individuals. This measure ensures that only authorized personnel with proper training and legal understanding can initiate the arrest process, thereby reducing the likelihood of wrongful arrests and protecting individuals from potential abuses of power.

Additionally, the bill seeks to amend penalties for making false statements or reports to governmental officials regarding criminal activities or public safety concerns. By increasing the maximum imprisonment term from 6 months to 3 years and raising the maximum fine to \$500, this legislation if made law will deter individuals from fabricating information that could lead to unnecessary investigations or legal actions.

Furthermore, HB1183 reinforces the responsibilities of District Court commissioners in upholding constitutional rights, determining probable cause, and ensuring due process for all individuals brought before them. These provisions underscore the importance of fair and impartial judicial proceedings, thereby promoting public trust and confidence in our legal system.

In conclusion, I urge you to lend your support to HB1183 and to advocate for its passage. By enacting these proposed reforms, we can strengthen the administration of justice,



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protect the rights of Maryland residents, and uphold the principles of fairness and accountability within our legal framework.

Thank you for considering my views on this important matter. I look forward to seeing positive progress on this bill and its eventual implementation for the betterment of our community.

Sincerely,

Ivan J. Bates

Ivan J. Bates
State's Attorney for Baltimore City

By: Hassan Giordano
Chief, External Affairs Committee