

MD Catholic Conference_HB 522_FWA.pdf

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Position: FWA



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

February 13, 2025

HB 522

Department of Juvenile Services - Rehabilitation Services - Funding

House Judiciary Committee

Position: FAVORABLE w/ AMENDMENT

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony of favorable with amendment to House Bill 522. The Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

House Bill 522 would authorize the Department of Juvenile Services to provide funding for rehabilitation services for system-involved youth. This bill seeks to provide those youth with substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation services for up to one year.

In the pastoral statement *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice* (2000), the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops stated, "We call upon government to redirect the vast amount of public resources away from building more and more prisons and toward better and more effective programs aimed at crime prevention, rehabilitation, education efforts, substance abuse treatment, and programs of probation, parole and reintegration." The Church remains a strong advocate for restorative justice, particularly within the juvenile system and, to that end, the Conference supports the aim of this legislation.

The Governor's budget includes a \$3 million allocation to support residential substance abuse treatment for youth through DJS. However, much greater study and deliberation is needed to continue and advance DJS in its mission to expand residential substance abuse treatment programs for system-involved youth to the level Maryland needs.

Thus, the Conference requests amendments to strike the contents of this legislation and add language requiring the Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform and Emerging Best Practices to study the need for substance use treatment services statewide. Thank you for your consideration.

SB 522_CPD_Letter of Concern_FINAL.pdf

Uploaded by: Kira Wilpone-Welborn

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February 11, 2025

To: The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee

From: Kira Wilpone-Welborn, Assistant Attorney General
Consumer Protection Division

Re: Senate Bill 522 – Home Builders - New Home Sales - Notice of Appliance Warranty
Registration (LETTER OF CONCERN)

The Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General (the “Division”) submits this letter of concern regarding Senate Bill 522 sponsored by Senator Nick Charles. The Division appreciates the attempt of Senate Bill 522 to provide consumers with valuable information about the warranties covering the appliances in their new homes. However, as drafted, Senate Bill 522 includes a practical impediment that undermines its goal.

As drafted, the bill requires warranty information to be included in the contract of sale of a new home. However, at the time of entering into the contract, it is likely that the appliances that will eventually be installed in the home are not yet selected and purchased. Even if they were selected, the information on the time remaining on the warranty would be unknown due to uncertainties common in the construction timeline or even changes in the underlying manufacturers’ warranty. It is our understanding that Senator Charles intends to amend the bill to address the timing of when the information is provided to the consumers, such that warranty information will be required to be provided at the time of closing. With the amendment, the Division’s concerns about Senate Bill 522 are alleviated.

cc: The Honorable Nick Charles
Members, Finance Committee