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DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
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Children, Youth, and Families

Senate Chair, Legislative Ethics



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony for Senate Bill 343**  
**State's Attorneys- Reconstitution of Task Force and**  
**Establishment of Case Management System Grant Fund**  
**Before the Judicial Proceedings Committee**  
**January 30, 2025**

Good afternoon, Chair Smith, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

Senate Bill 343 ("SB 343") picks up and expands on Chapter 141 of 2022 by reconstituting the Task Force to Study Transparency Standards for State's Attorneys ("Task Force") and codifying State's Attorney's Office Case Automation System Enhancement Grant Program ("Fund"). The Task Force recommended that: (1) all State's Attorneys' offices should adopt and use an automated case management system (CMS"); (2) a statewide uniform data collection procedure should be adopted within the CMS; (3) the State should continue to provide State's Attorneys' offices with the funding needed to assist with CMS setup and data sharing; (4) there should be some form of data publication; and (5) the Task Force should be extended for three years, and its membership should be expanded.

First, SB 343 codifies the Fund. The Fund will provide State's Attorneys' offices with funds to establish or improve CMSs. The Fund consists of money appropriated in the State budget, interest earnings of the Fund, and money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the Fund.

The Executive Director for the Governor's Office of the Crime Prevention and Policy administers the Fund and establishes the procedures to apply for and receive Fund grants and solicits proposals from State's Attorneys' offices.

When State's Attorneys' Offices apply for a grant from the Fund, they must provide a description of the CMS they seek to establish or improve, and other information the Executive Director considers necessary. Once an office receives a grant, that office must submit proof of the expenditure of the funds to the Executive Director.

SB 343 reincorporates the Task Force, which was established to study Transparency Standards for the State's Attorneys Case Management Systems. Unfortunately, when the 2024 session ended, the former Task Force expired, without SB 617 having been passed which would have allowed the

Task Force to continue its work, therefore the need for SB 343. The new expiration date is an adjustment to cover the lost year. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and shall end June 30, 2028. As noted in Section 3 of the legislation, our goal is to secure as many former members as possible of the original task force to serve.

As such, I respectfully request a favorable report for SB 343.