



## Maryland State's Attorneys' Association

3300 North Ridge Road, Suite 185

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

410-203-9881

FAX 410-203-9891

Rich Gibson  
President

Steven I. Kroll  
Coordinator

**DATE:** February 5, 2025

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 512

**POSITION:** Unfavorable

The Maryland State's Attorneys' Association (MSAA) opposes Senate Bill 512 and urges this Committee to issue an unfavorable report.

The Child Interrogation Protection Act, enacted in 2022, requires juveniles to speak with an attorney before participating in a custodial interrogation, and has functionally eliminated the ability of investigators to speak with juvenile suspects. Many jurisdictions across Maryland have not had even one juvenile agree to speak to investigators after the required consultation with an attorney. As a result, the prohibition on investigators knowingly using false information to elicit statements from juveniles during custodial interrogations contained in SB 512 would have no effect, as there are no juveniles speaking to investigators currently.

Should the General Assembly consider revisions to the Child Interrogation Protection Act – including legislation like Senate Bill 531 – perhaps the guardrails provided by SB 512 would serve a purpose, but right now, bills like SB 512 represent a solution in search of a problem. MSAA welcomes a dialogue with lawmakers and community stakeholders on better ways to balance public safety and due process in this context.