



State of Maryland
Department of State Police
Government Affairs Unit
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POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

DATE: February 14, 2025

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 206 **POSITION:** Support

BILL TITLE: Public Safety – Rape Kit Collections, Testing, and Tracking Grant Fund - Alterations

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

This legislation seeks to amend the name, purpose and use of the Rape Kit Testing Grant Fund by expanding the Fund to cover use of equipment, supplies, personnel and the outsourcing necessary to test sexual assault evidence collection kits collected before or after the establishment of the Fund. In addition, the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) may use 5% of the Fund to manage the Fund.

Under current law, the Rape Kit Testing Grant Fund provides law enforcement agencies with funding to pay for testing of sexual assault evidence kits collected by forensic laboratories. The Fund is used by the Forensic laboratory to perform forensic analysis. The Executive Director of The GOCPP administers the Fund, establishes procedures for the distribution of the Fund to ensure each jurisdiction in the State that has a forensic laboratory is able to access the Fund for testing.

Senate Bill 206 allows for the grant funds to be utilize over multiple years. By expanding use and access to the Fund to include hospitals, nonprofit organizations, and other government agencies who currently support efforts to enter sexual assault evidence testing and collection kits into the reporting program under the 11-926.1 of The Criminal Procedure Article. It will make the testing, collection, and use of the grant more efficient.

Testing sexual assault kits is a vital step in providing justice for survivors of sexual assault. Supporting rape kit testing demonstrates a commitment to the rights and dignity of survivors. The testing and collection of these kits are essential for ensuring justice and preventing future crimes and supporting the right of sexual assault survivors. It is understood that there have been and continue to be many conversations regarding the issues addressed in the bill. The Maryland State Police support efforts that will move the work central to the grant forward.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of State Police urges the Committee to give Senate Bill 206 a favorable report.