

WES MOORE  
Governor

ARUNA MILLER  
Lieutenant Governor



DOROTHY LENNIG  
Executive Director

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT, WITH AMENDMENTS, OF SENATE BILL 201

January 14, 2025

Bethany Young, Director of Policy and Legislation

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) advises the Governor on criminal justice strategies, coordinates across public safety agencies, and allocates resources statewide to support public safety. GOCPP publishes annual or semiannual reports on its grant activities and data collected from State and local criminal justice agencies about their activities. **With the attached amendments, Senate Bill 201 extends annual report deadlines for four GOCPP-administered grants, giving GOCPP more time to receive and synthesize grantee data and streamlines reporting on youth charged as adults by eliminating overlap.**

First, SB201 extends the deadlines for the following grants from September 1 to October 1: Body Armor Grant Program, Rape Kit Testing Grant Program, Protecting Against Hate Crimes Grant Program, and Child Advocacy Centers Annual Report.

GOCPP must publish annual reports on its funding activities under each of the several dozen grants it administers. Many reports describe grantmaking activities and grantee performance. GOCPP collects performance data from grantees each quarter. Grantees are required to submit this information by July 15, 15 days after the end of the State fiscal fourth quarter. However, because many grantees request extensions to submit the required information, our office cannot extract the information for legislative reports until August 15. This timing leaves GOCPP little time to synthesize fourth-quarter data for reports with September 1 deadlines.

Second, SB201 eliminates a semiannual report on juveniles charged as adults required by section 10-219 of the Criminal Procedure Article because it duplicates an annual report on juveniles charged, convicted, and sentenced as adults established by section 3-503 of the Public Safety Article.

SB201, as currently drafted, also repeals part of the State-required report on deaths involving law enforcement officers because the Office of the Attorney General reports on officer-involved deaths of civilians, and GOCPP compiles similar information to meet federal requirements under the Deaths in Custody Reporting Act. It leaves in place reporting on line-of-duty deaths of officers. *The attached amendments strike this change.*

Last, SB201, as currently drafted, would change the annual requirement to collect and publish data on forensic genetic genealogical DNA analysis and search (FGGS) to a biannual requirement. This bill would also change the annual stakeholder meeting to review the report and make policy recommendations to a single meeting with additional meetings at the Governor's or General Assembly's request. Counties report infrequent use of FGGS. *The attached amendment strikes this change.*

**GOCPP requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 201 with the amendments attached to this testimony.**