

HOUSE BILL 1350

ALISON M. HEALEY, HARFORD COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

**POSITION: FAVORABLE FOR HB 1350**

March 4, 2025

I am Alison Healey, State's Attorney for Harford County and a board member of the Maryland State's Attorney's Association (hereinafter MSAA). I am here today to offer my support for House Bill 1350.

Criminal Law § 3-308 provides a subsequent offender penalty for offenders who have previously committed enumerated prior sexual offenses increasing the penalty from 1 year and/or \$1000 to 3 years and/or \$1000. The intent of the subsequent offender penalties is to more severely punish repeat offenders.

However, currently, the statute only applies that subsequent offender penalty only for prior convictions in Maryland. HB 1350 simply permits those repeat offender penalties to apply to individuals who have committed the same enumerated in offenses in other jurisdictions as well including other states or federal, military, or native American tribal courts. It should be irrelevant that a prior conviction occurred in a different jurisdiction. If a sexual predator has reoffended, he should be subject to the same criminal penalties as a subsequent offender as an individual who committed a prior offense in Maryland. A prior sexual offense is a prior sexual offense and should be treated as such. We must hold sex offenders to the strictest penalties for the benefit of all of our citizens and public safety generally.

For these reasons, **I respectfully request a favorable report for House Bill 1350.**