



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: **January 31, 2025**

BILL NUMBER: **HB 401**

POSITION: **Informational**

The Maryland State's Attorneys' Association (MSAA) submits the following for the consideration of this Committee as it reviews and deliberates House Bill 401.

MSAA recognizes that the cost of communicating with family for an incarcerated person can often be prohibitively expensive, and that incarcerated persons that remain in touch with family and loved ones often experience better outcomes once released, decreasing recidivism and improving public safety as a result. MSAA applauds legislation like HB 401 that begin conversations on innovative ways to enhance the safety of our communities by improving outcomes for persons returning from incarceration.

MSAA submits this informational position, though, to underscore the importance of one aspect of the functionality of the current telephone communication system. Although this doesn't appear in HB 401, as changes to the telephone communication system are discussed, preserving the ability of investigators to access and review telephone calls made by incarcerated persons is critically important for the safety of crime victims and witnesses, as well for incarcerated persons and their families. MSAA urges the prioritization of solutions that preserve this functionality while simultaneously making communication with loved ones more affordable for incarcerated persons.