



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: **March 7, 2025**

BILL NUMBER: **HB 1308**

POSITION: **Favorable**

The Maryland State's Attorneys' Association (MSAA) supports House Bill 1308 and urges this Committee to issue a favorable report.

HB 1308 is a straightforward bill, one that establishes additional penalties for those that would commit crimes of violence – a narrow set of extremely serious offenses, including armed robbery, kidnapping, arson, rape, and murder – in places of worship or healthcare facilities. Committing one of these offenses in a place of worship or healthcare facility impacts not just those directly affected by the crime, but the entire community. Marylanders should have confidence that they will be safe when attending religious services or seeking medical treatment, and HB 1308 discourages those that would threaten their safety by establishing this new offense and adding this additional penalty.

This bill does not require the imposition of a separate sentence, but vests courts with the ability to fashion sentences that reflect the increased severity of violent conduct that takes place in these unique locations. Because this bill serves such important interests, MSAA urges a favorable report.