



**State of Maryland
Department of State Police**
Government Affairs Unit
Annapolis Office (410) 260-6100

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

DATE: March 6, 2026

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 1419 **POSITION:** Letter of Information

BILL TITLE: Department of State Police – Centralized Background Check Division

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

This legislation requires the Maryland Department of State Police to create a Centralized Background Check Division and requires the Secretary to appoint an Executive Director. The Division shall be responsible for appointing designees from state agencies, local and municipal governments, to identify and provide information to the Division required for position related background checks. The Division shall conduct a position related background check promptly upon receipt from the appointed designees.

The current background check process in Maryland requires all counties, municipalities, and state agencies to conduct their own background checks as it relates to employment, licensing, and certification. This includes fingerprint record checks, full background investigations, and any necessary follow-ups. Under federal law, fingerprint-based background checks responses are required to be sent to the agency requiring the background check and the applicant.

This legislation would significantly impact the Maryland Department of State Police (MDSP) by requiring the creation of a new Centralized Background Checks Division, appointing an Executive Director, and overseeing hundreds of background check coordinators across state and local agencies. MDSP would thus oversee background investigations for all agencies and local governments across the state. If passed, this legislation would involve major startup costs, ongoing operational expenses, and a significant administrative burden.

House Bill 1419 would require MDSP to conduct background checks for employees, vendors, interns, and volunteers, including fingerprint-only, supplemental, and full background investigations. This would impact MDSP by increasing administrative workload, as it would also require tracking applicants, record or employment updates, disqualifying events, and rap-back notifications. Processing times would likely vary widely, with many cases requiring extensive follow-up, especially for out-of-state records. Federal law also limits MDSP's access to FBI fingerprint results, so many background check results must be obtained indirectly from other agencies, creating delays and compliance challenges. Additionally, FBI "rap back" (ongoing criminal history updates) must be authorized in statute for each specific position, further limiting MDSP's ability to apply it broadly across the state.

State of Maryland
Department of State Police
Government Affairs Unit
Annapolis Office (410) 260-6100

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Based on CJIS data showing 345,411 fingerprint requests for employment and licenses and certifications for CY 2025, MDSP estimates it would need at least 115 staff for basic fingerprint reviews, 10 deputy directors, and a dedicated unit to manage annual training for all designees. An additional 81–104 investigators would be needed for full investigations. In total, MDSP projects a need for about 200 investigators, plus supervisors, managers, and IT support for a total of approximately 260 employees.

To support this workforce, MDSP would need:

- A new leased facility (approximately 50,000 square feet)
- Furniture, security systems, and regional offices
- A comprehensive case-management database
- Major IT infrastructure and support staff

The estimated costs include:

- Database development and IT systems: \$5.5 million
- Annual building lease (10 years): \$18.2 million
- Furniture and office setup: \$2.6 million
- Security systems: ~\$300,000
- Ongoing IT maintenance and staffing - \$306,182
- Vehicles and equipment for IT support staff - \$113,229

The database and IT systems would take about two years to develop.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of State Police urges the Committee to consider this letter of information when deliberating on House Bill 1419.