



**BILL NO:** Senate Bill 129  
**TITLE:** Domestic Violence – Warrantless Arrests and Victims  
**COMMITTEE:** Judicial Proceedings  
**HEARING DATE:** January 20, 2026  
**POSITION:** **FAVORABLE**

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The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the COMMITTEE to report favorably on SB 129 with Amendments.**

Senate Bill 129 is a modest addition to an existing law that allows for warrantless arrest in certain circumstances. Under SB 129, a person who had a sexual relationship with their victim in the past 12 months would be added to whom law enforcement would be allowed to conduct a warrantless arrest.

We understand that there is a proposed amendment to replace the language in the bill with the “Person Eligible for Relief” definition found in Md. Code Ann. Family law §4-501. We support this amendment.

Such an expansion makes sense as the reality is that not all intimate partner violence or sexual offenses are between only spouses or people who reside together, as the current law contemplates. SB129 would not alter the other limits of the law, including that there must be evidence of physical injury; a report to police was made within 48 hours; and there is a risk that the alleged perpetrator will flee, cause injury or property damage, or spoliage evidence. It is a modest expansion of arrest authority that may increase community safety, although we do note that anecdotally, this action is seldom taken by law enforcement due to the constraints listed above.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on SB 129.**

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