

**SB0524-JPR-FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**SB 0524**

February 19, 2026

**TO:** Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
**RE:** Senate Bill 524: Juvenile Records – Access by Baltimore City Mayor's Office

**POSITION: Support**

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 524.

SB 524 would allow the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) to share police records involving a child with the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE), Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success (MOCFS), and/or Mayor's Office of African American Male Engagement (MOAAME) only in those instances when one of the aforementioned agencies is providing direct services to a young person. These services may include, but are not limited to, case management, mentorship, and referrals to external and community-based providers.

Once enacted, this legislation would reinstate a carve-out that had existed in State law for the past decade. When a young person is referred to one of these agencies for programs or services, the ability to access BPD police records directly and confidentially facilitates the development of a comprehensive treatment plan focused on preventing recidivism and ensuring the young person's success. Without this carve-out, BPD is not permitted to share these records with the agencies coordinating services and supports for that young person. This bill would facilitate stronger case management and service delivery for young people involved in relevant MONSE, MOCFS, and MOAAME youth opportunity programs while upholding the confidentiality and responsible use of juvenile criminal justice information.

As outlined in Baltimore's Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan, there is a pressing need to strengthen existing youth violence prevention efforts. Additionally, the Mayor's Office and BPD are actively partnering with the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to address upstream causes and reduce youth involvement in the juvenile justice system. SB 524 is one of Mayor Brandon M. Scott's top legislative priorities for the 2026 Maryland General Assembly session due to his strong belief that children should be provided appropriate services and resources to the greatest extent possible rather than entering into the juvenile justice system. This restoration

of access to juvenile records will complement other programs and services as Baltimore continues to build on historic reductions in gun violence.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 524.

**BCYC Testimony SB524.pdf**

Uploaded by: Qamryn Askew

Position: FAV

*Christian Ato*  
*Chair*

*Curtis Johnson Jr.*  
*Vice Chair*



*Bella-Grace Annibal*  
*At-Large*

*Caleb Kurlantzick*  
*Treasurer*

*Gabriel Freeman*  
*Secretary*

*Baltimore City Youth Commission*

*100 Holliday Street*  
*Baltimore, MD 21202*

*Senate Bill 524*

*Juvenile Records - Access to Baltimore by Baltimore City Mayor's Office*

Dear Chair Smith and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

The Baltimore City Youth Commission (BCYC) supports Senate Bill 524, and offers the following testimony for the committee's consideration.

The BCYC is chartered<sup>1</sup> by the City of Baltimore to advise the Mayor, City Council and municipal agencies on youth-related policies and programs that impact youth in our city. Consistent with our mandate, we strongly support Senate Bill 524.

While confidentiality is important for protecting the privacy of justice-involved youth, it prevents municipal agencies tasked with their rehabilitation from completing their work by leaving out valuable context. Senate Bill 524 reconciles this by granting access to three critical agencies: the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE), the Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success (MOCFS) and the Mayor's Office of African American Male Engagement (MOAAME). This legislation is consistent with the public health driven intervention strategies that our city has employed, and it explicitly limits record access to specific instances in which these offices are providing services to the youth in question. Through the review of these records, city agencies can identify the specific circumstances of a young person's justice system involvement, and use that information to develop a comprehensive rehabilitation plan.

For the reasons listed, the Baltimore City Youth Commission requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 524.

Respectfully Submitted,

Qamryn Askew  
Commissioner

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<sup>1</sup> Baltimore City Code. Article 1, §22-3

# **SB 524 Juvenile Records - Access by Baltimore City**

Uploaded by: Kara Aanenson

Position: FWA

Aruna Miller  
Lt. Governor

Wes Moore  
Governor

Betsy Fox Tolentino  
Secretary

**Date:** February 19, 2026  
**Bill Number/Title:** SB 524 Juvenile Records - Access by Baltimore City Mayor's Office  
**Committee:** Judicial Proceedings Committee  
**DJS Position:** Favorable With Amendment

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The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) supports SB 542 with an amendment. SB 524 expands access to confidential juvenile records under § 3-8A-27 of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article to permit the following Baltimore City Mayor's Offices to obtain and use those records:

1. The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement;
2. The Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success; and
3. The Mayor's Office of African American Male Engagement.

Under the bill, these offices may access juvenile records only when they are providing programs or services to the child who is the subject of the record, and only for purposes directly related to delivering those services or developing a comprehensive treatment plan.

Historically, Maryland Courts and Judicial Proceedings § 3-8A-27 included a narrowly tailored provision authorizing the Baltimore City Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice ( now renamed to Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement) to access confidential juvenile records when providing services to a child. That provision sunsetted in 2025. The prior language reflected a careful legislative balance: preserving the confidentiality of juvenile records while allowing limited information sharing when necessary to coordinate services for youth.

As introduced, SB 524 is broader than the former provision as it adds multiple Mayor's Offices to the list of entities eligible to access confidential records. DJS has a longstanding and productive partnership with the Baltimore City Mayor's Office and remains committed to working collaboratively to connect youth and families with services that can interrupt cycles of violence and promote long-term stability. Thoughtful information sharing can be an important tool in that effort.

At the same time, juvenile records are confidential for a reason. Maryland law recognizes that protecting the privacy of young people is central to rehabilitation, fairness, and long-term opportunity. Information sharing in the juvenile system must therefore be narrowly crafted, clearly defined, and limited to what is necessary to achieve specific service goals. Expanding access too broadly risks undermining the confidentiality framework that is foundational to the juvenile justice system. For those reasons, DJS is asking for the following amendment:

**(9) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Department of Juvenile Services may provide access to and confidential use of a juvenile court record to the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, or to a local government agency performing substantially similar youth engagement programming, provided that all of the following conditions are met:**

**(a) The disclosure is strictly limited to purposes directly related to supporting the treatment, rehabilitation, reentry planning, or continuity of care for the child who is the subject of the record;**

**(b) The disclosure is governed by a written memorandum of understanding between the Department and the receiving agency that:**

- (i) Identifies the specific records to be shared;**
- (ii) Defines the purpose and necessity of the disclosure;**
- (iii) Limits the use and purposes described in this paragraph;**
- (iv) Prohibits redisclosure of the records to any other person or entity; and**
- (v) Requires compliance with all applicable state and federal confidentiality laws;**

**(c) The receiving government agency is liable for any unauthorized release of the records and shall maintain them confidentially in accordance with state law and the terms of the memorandum of understanding**

This approach establishes a structured, accountable framework for the sharing of confidential juvenile records with the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, and with similarly situated local agencies providing youth engagement or violence prevention programming. Additionally, it would ensure that any disclosure is narrowly tailored to treatment, rehabilitation, reentry planning, or continuity of care; is governed by a written memorandum of understanding with clear guardrails; and is subject to strict limits on use and redisclosure. In doing so, the amendment preserves the focused, service-driven information-sharing pathway envisioned under prior law, while safeguarding the integrity of Maryland's juvenile confidentiality protections.

For these reasons, DJS respectfully requests a favorable with amendment to SB 524.

# **Testimony in Opposition of SB524 - Juvenile Record**

Uploaded by: Hassan Giordano

Position: UNF



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE CITY

February 19, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith Jr.  
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Opposition to SB524 – Juvenile Records – Access by Baltimore City Mayor's Office

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice Chair and Honorable Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, I am writing to express our opposition to SB524, which aims to expand access of confidential Juvenile Records to several Baltimore City Offices. We believe that opposition to this bill is crucial to enhancing the integrity of our juvenile legal system and safeguarding the rights of children, whose confidential police records are a bedrock of our judicial system.

SB524 proposes to expand a specifically tailored statute that aimed at authorizing the city's Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice to obtain access to such confidential records when providing programs and services to a child who is the subject of the record, for a purpose relevant to the provisions of the programs and services, and the development of a comprehensive treatment plan.

This language allowed for the balance of allowing a limited amount of juvenile information when looking to offer coordinated services for these juveniles. We believe that given none of the entities listed in this bill are law enforcement entities that such information should be restricted and based solely on the consent of the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS).

Given that DJS has a longstanding partnership with the Mayor's Office, and remains the leading agency across our state when dealing with juvenile records and their diversionary programming, we would ask that any and all juvenile records be accessed by this agency, providing such information to the city upon request for such programming the city intends to perform moving forward.

Juvenile records have remained confidential for a reason, and given the uncertainty that still exists regarding the Side Step program implemented by the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, and the fact that cases were "diverted" without victims of those crimes being notified, juvenile data possibly shared with the non-profits chosen to give services to these juveniles and there being no clear data or information



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE CITY

showing if the participants involved successfully completed said programming, we would ask that you act with an abundance of caution before giving access to such sensitive information to various city entities, with no clearly defined structures or oversight.

We stand in opposition to this bill as written and ask that you hear from the Department of Juvenile Services on where they stand on this critical piece of legislation, as we would wholeheartedly support their recommendations as it relates to this bill. We ask that more information be provided to those of us in law enforcement who are tasked with holding these juvenile offenders accountable for their actions, and responsible to the victims of the crimes committed by these youth.

When our office was made aware of the Side Step program, and asked MONSE about that the information regarding these juvenile offenders be shared with our office, who as a law enforcement entity already has access to juvenile records; we were met with fierce resistance and told that "under the existing law, they were not able to share with us such information," even though the very same statute they are trying to amend clearly outlines further down in the statute that this does not prohibit the State's Attorney for accessing such records.

We would ask that if you decide to give such access to these records to any or all of the city entities listed in this bill, that they also are given "permission" to share such records with the State's Attorney's Office when we are seeking guidance as to the crime(s) committed, the victim of said crime and if the juveniles being diverted are in fact successfully completing said programming.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter. I look forward to a positive resolution on this critically important bill.

Yours in service,

*Hassan Giordano*

Hassan Giordano  
Chief, External and Governmental Affairs  
Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City

**sb524.pdf**

Uploaded by: Will Vormelker

Position: UNF

HON. STACY A. MAYER  
CIRCUIT COURT  
JUDGE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY  
CHAIR

HON. RICHARD SANDY  
CIRCUIT COURT  
JUDGE  
FREDERICK COUNTY  
VICE-CHAIR



KELLEY O'CONNOR  
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P: (410) 260-1560

SUZANNE PELZ, ESQ.  
SNR. GOVT. RELATIONS AND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER  
P: (410)260-1523

## MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
**FROM:** Legislative Committee  
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.  
410-260-1523  
**RE:** Senate Bill 524  
Juvenile Records - Access by Baltimore City Mayor's Office  
**DATE:** February 11, 2026  
(2/19)  
**POSITION:** Oppose

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The Maryland Judiciary opposes Senate Bill 524, which allows certain named entities broad and unfettered access to otherwise confidential juvenile records without any procedural safeguards in place regarding confidentiality. The Judiciary is concerned that the bill's access language is too broad. There may be cases before the juvenile court in which one or more of the identified entities may be providing services to the child or family, and court or police records may have relevant information. However, it is also probable that the court or police records may contain other information not relevant to the provision of services and of a sensitive or private nature and should not be shared, *e.g.*, informant or witness information, certain medical or social information, certain personal identifying information, among others. This bill does not provide the custodian of the records with any ability to restrict disclosure, to protect that information, nor does it provide for an *in camera* review process by the court to determine the relevance of the otherwise confidential information. As drafted, the bill seems to provide unfettered access to juvenile records to anyone in the named offices. This access runs counter to the current law's confidentiality protections for juveniles.

cc. Hon. Mary Washington  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O'Connor