



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

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

SB 0524

April 2, 2026

TO: Members of the House Judiciary 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 Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, 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) and the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to share police and court records respectively 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 are 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. The legislation was amended in the Senate to better reflect the process by which referrals to the City agencies will take place through a memorandum of understanding as well as by requiring written consent from the young person's parent or guardian.

Once enacted, this legislation would reinstate a carve-out that had existed in State law for more than the past decade. When a young person is referred to one of these agencies for programs or services, the ability to access these court and 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 and DJS are 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 as currently amended.