

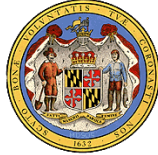
STATE OF MARYLAND

CHARLTON T. HOWARD III
State Prosecutor

SARAH R. DAVID
Deputy State Prosecutor

ABIGAIL E. TICSE - MARY W. SETZER
JOYCE K. McDONALD - BRITTANY DUNKLOW
Senior Assistant State Prosecutors

STEPHANIE HADDAD
Assistant State Prosecutor



OFFICE OF THE STATE PROSECUTOR

40 W. Chesapeake Avenue
Suite 300
Towson, MD 21204
Telephone (410) 321-4067
1 (800) 695-4058
Fax (410) 321-3851

SUPPORT FOR HB 1030

Madam Chair and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

We are writing to express the support of the Office of the State Prosecutor for House Bill 1030. The Office of the State Prosecutor is tasked with resolving political corruption, police misconduct and election integrity cases throughout Maryland and believes that this legislation will help protect members of the judiciary and the integrity of the judicial process in Maryland.

The Office of the State Prosecutor

The Office of the State Prosecutor is an independent agency within the Executive Branch of government. The Office is tasked with ensuring the honesty and integrity of State government and elections by conducting thorough, independent investigations and, when appropriate, prosecutions of criminal conduct affecting the integrity of our State and local government institutions, officials, employees, and elections.

House Bill 1030- Adding Judicial Threats to Office of the State Prosecutor Statute

House Bill 1030 expands the Maryland Office of the State Prosecutor's jurisdiction to include threats against judges pursuant to Section 3-708 of the Criminal Law Article. The Maryland Office of the State Prosecutor has jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute certain enumerated crimes as specified in Criminal Procedure 14-107. The Office cannot investigate cases if the alleged principal crime falls outside the enumerated offenses, unless it is a multi-jurisdictional crime and then only by request of the Attorney General, local State's Attorney, General Assembly or Governor's Office.

Our Office is experienced in handling sensitive, high profile, controversial cases throughout the State. We are willing and able to take on the investigation of judicial threats in conjunction with local law enforcement, or as our statute provides, with the assistance of the Maryland State Police. However, we cannot handle these cases without modification to our statute, as most judicial threats occur in only one jurisdiction (and thus would not be able to be handled by our office even by request of the agencies identified above).

Importantly, while under House Bil 1030 our Office would handle the investigation, per section 14-108 of the Criminal Procedure Article, we would have to provide a report to the local State's Attorney who would decide whether they wanted to prosecute the case or have a member of our office prosecute the case once the investigation was completed. Therefore, the elected State's Attorney would still have the opportunity to prosecute the case if they desire, as they would if

any other investigative body handled the investigation. We understand that judicial security is of the utmost importance in Maryland and throughout the country, and hope that we can utilize our proven legal and investigative abilities to protect those who hold public office in the service of justice.

Sincerely,

CHARLTON T. HOWARD, III
STATE PROSECUTOR