



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 1363 Criminal Procedure – Domestic Violence Offenders – Registration

Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present House Bill 1363.

This legislation was brought to my office by a constituent who raised concerns about repeat domestic violence offenders and the lack of accessible information that could help protect future victims. Their experience highlighted a gap in how patterns of domestic violence offenses are tracked and communicated.

HB 1363 seeks to address that gap by creating a Domestic Violence Offender Registry for individuals who have been convicted of multiple domestically related crimes. The bill requires registration after a second conviction and establishes increasing registration periods based on the number of prior convictions.

Importantly, the registry would make certain information publicly available in a way that promotes transparency while still protecting victims. The registry would include information such as the offender's name, date of birth, and conviction information, but would not include sensitive personal information such as Social Security numbers or driver's license numbers.

This concept is modeled after legislation recently enacted in Tennessee known as Savanna's Law, which created a registry for persistent domestic violence offenders. That law was inspired by the tragic murder of Deputy Sheriff Savanna Puckett by a partner who had multiple prior domestic violence-related offenses that were not easily identifiable in public records.

As we developed this bill, we reached out to Tennessee legislators who sponsored Savanna's Law and received valuable guidance from them about how their legislation was drafted and implemented. Their experience helped inform our approach here in Maryland.

One of our key goals in drafting this legislation was to keep the fiscal impact as low as possible. To accomplish that, the bill leverages the existing technology and infrastructure already used for Maryland's sex offender registry rather than creating a completely new system.

Additionally, the bill allows for reasonable registration fees and establishes penalties for failure to comply with registration requirements. These provisions help offset the administrative costs associated with maintaining the registry.

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Domestic violence is often a pattern of behavior. When those patterns are difficult to identify, it can leave future victims vulnerable.

HB 1363 provides a practical tool to improve transparency, strengthen accountability for repeat offenders, and give individuals better information to help protect themselves and their families.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 1363.

Thank you, and I would be happy to answer any questions.