



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE CITY

HB0138 Support

January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026

The Honorable Sandy Bartlett  
Chair, Judiciary Committee  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support of HB0138 – Criminal Law – Third Degree Sexual Offense - Burglary

Dear Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for HB0138 – Criminal Law – Third Degree Sex Offense - Burglary. As an Assistant State's Attorney for Baltimore City currently assigned to the Special Victims Unit, I believe that this bill is necessary to assure that sex offenders are appropriately held accountable for their crimes. HB0138 will make engaging in sexual contact with a person in the course of a burglary a felony offense. This reform is essential to ensuring justice for victims, preventing further harm, and protecting public safety.

On October 20, 2022, at 03:17 hours, Baltimore Police officers responded to an apartment building on for a reported burglary. Upon arrival officers spoke with the female victim, who stated that around 3am, she was woken up by a black male in her room who was naked, holding a pair of black shorts, standing in front of her bed. She advised that this male was using his free hand to masturbate. The victim then got up and yelled at the male to leave and he walked out of her apartment to an unknown location. She did not know the identity of this person, and had never seen him before this night. He did not have permission to be in her home.

In the case resulting from this call to the police, the male was charged with sex offense in the 4<sup>th</sup> degree as well as other related offenses. Sex offense in the 4<sup>th</sup> degree is a misdemeanor, punishable by only a year in prison. Sex offense in the 4<sup>th</sup> degree is simply touching another in an intimate part of their body without consent. This crime was something much more serious, as this male invaded the victim's home, where she should have felt safe, and then exposed himself to her and masturbated in front of her, traumatizing her. We could not charge him with a felony sex crime, specifically 3<sup>rd</sup> degree sex offense, because burglary was not one of the aggravators at the time of the offense.



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The crime committed against this victim was a felony offense, but the law did not recognize it. This must change.

It is worth noting that the Baltimore Police Department would receive three additional calls to that apartment building that night, with three different woman stating that this individual had broken into their apartment. One victim reported that he was standing in her bedroom with no pants on and his penis exposed. Another found the male sitting in her closet. Still another stated that she woke to the male lying next to her in her bed without his clothes on. And the individual would be identified as the suspect in yet another burglary that occurred in the same apartment building a month prior, where the female victim woke in the middle of the night to find him lying in her bed, hugging her and trying to kiss her. The pattern of behavior exhibited by this male showed him to be a sexual predator. The law did not allow us to treat him as one.

A second degree rape in the State of Maryland becomes a first degree rape if it is committed in the course of a burglary. There is no reason why a fourth degree sex offense should not become a felony third degree sex offense if it is committed during the course of a burglary. Common sense tells us that a person masturbating in front of another on a public bus is not the same crime as someone breaking into the home of another and doing the same thing. The law should reflect that, and I ask that it be changed accordingly.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours in service,

*Stacie Reed*

Stacie Reed  
Team Captain, Special Victims Unit  
Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City