

LAUREN ARIKAN
Legislative District 7B
Harford County

Judiciary Committee



Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 414
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3334
800-492-7122 Ext. 3334
Lauren.Arikan@house.state.md.us

The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 6, 2026

The Honorable Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett
131 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SPONSOR TESTIMONY

HB1467 Criminal Law - Fourth Degree Sexual Offense - Out-of-State Convictions

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

HB1467 would strengthen sentencing laws for repeat sexual offenders by accounting for criminal history from outside of Maryland. Current law permits enhanced penalties for fourth-degree sexual offenses when a prior conviction exists within the state; this bill expands that framework to include convictions from other states, as well as federal, military, or Native American tribal courts.

This legislation closes loopholes that allow repeat offenders to exploit jurisdictional differences to avoid accountability. By recognizing convictions obtained in other court systems, the bill prevents offenders from escaping consequences simply by relocating. Closing this gap allows our sentencing enhancements to reflect an offender's full history and provides greater protection to potential victims by ensuring that those with patterns of predatory behavior face significant consistent repercussions for their actions.

HB1467 guarantees that existing penalties apply regardless of the origin of a prior conviction. This aligns Maryland with standard practices and provides the necessary tools to address these cases.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report for HB1467 to improve public safety and maintain uniform enforcement of our sexual offense statutes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lauren C. Arikan".

Delegate Lauren C. Arikan