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Legislative District 22  
Prince George's County

Judiciary Committee

Chair, Public Safety Subcommittee

Chair, Prince George's  
County House Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 25, 2026

The Honorable J. Sandy Bartlett  
Chair of the House Judiciary Committee  
100 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

House Bill 1061

Good afternoon, Chair Bartlett, Vice-Chair Davis, and the members of the House Judiciary Committee. I am Delegate Nicole Williams, and I will be testifying in favor of House Bill 1061, also known as **Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting a Handgun - Prior Convictions**. This legislation addresses a loophole in the Maryland handgun sentencing statute that ensures that courts can treat prior convictions from other jurisdictions as the same in our State for the purposes of enhanced sentencing when a defendant reoffends.

This loophole is present under § 4-203 of the Criminal Law Article. In cases where a defendant has prior convictions under this section in Maryland, enhanced penalties apply. However, when the same conduct has been committed in other jurisdictions, those convictions do not qualify as a prior offense for enhanced penalties.

This legislation aims to ensure consistency and uniformity in sentencing. It does not create new crimes, nor does it alter existing penalty structures. It is simply a clarifying and corrective piece of legislation that aligns the criminal law in the State of Maryland with how repeat firearm-related offenses are treated in other states.

For these reasons, I urge this committee to give a favorable report on House Bill 1061.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nicole Williams", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Delegate Nicole A. Williams, Esq.