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Date: February 17, 2026

Bill Number: HB 626

Position: Unfavorable

The Maryland State's Attorneys' Association (MSAA) opposes House Bill 626 and urges this Committee to issue an unfavorable report.

The Child Interrogation Protection Act, enacted in 2022, requires juveniles to speak with an attorney before participating in a custodial interrogation, and has functionally eliminated the ability of investigators to speak with juvenile suspects. Many jurisdictions across Maryland have not had even one juvenile agree to speak to investigators after the required consultation with an attorney.

As a result, the prohibition on investigators knowingly using false information to elicit statements from juveniles during custodial interrogations contained in HB 626 would have no effect, as there are no juveniles speaking to investigators currently.

Should the General Assembly consider revisions to the Child Interrogation Protection Act, perhaps the guardrails provided by HB 626 would serve a purpose, but right now, bills like HB 626 represent a solution in search of a problem.

MSAA welcomes a dialogue with lawmakers and community stakeholders on better ways to balance public safety and due process in this context.