



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 1366 – Family Law - Final Protective Orders - Duration

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present House Bill 1366.

This legislation was brought to my office by a constituent who experienced firsthand a gap in Maryland’s current protective order framework. The constituent shared concerns about situations where a respondent is placed on probation for an offense against a victim, but the protective order protecting that victim may expire before the probation period ends.

HB 1366 addresses that gap.

Under current law, final protective orders typically last up to one year, and in some cases up to two years. However, those timelines do not always align with the timeline of a criminal case or the probation period imposed by the court.

This bill ensures that when a respondent is placed on probation for an offense committed against the petitioner, the court has the ability to extend the final protective order through the period of that probation.

The goal is simple: to ensure that victims are not left without protection while the respondent remains under court supervision.

After introducing the bill, my office worked closely with the Maryland Crime Victims’ Resource Center to strengthen the legislation. Based on their expertise and feedback from advocates who work directly with victims, we developed an amendment that clarifies the process. The amendment allows the court, upon written request of the petitioner or the State on the petitioner’s behalf, to extend a final protective order through the respondent’s probation period when the probation is for an offense committed against that petitioner.

This approach ensures the bill works smoothly within the existing court process while maintaining appropriate judicial discretion.

HB 1366 is a targeted and practical change that helps align protective orders with criminal probation timelines and strengthens protections for victims of abuse.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 1366 and the proposed amendment.

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