

HOUSE BILL 123

ALISON M. HEALEY, HARFORD COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

POSITION: FAVORABLE FOR HB 123

February 3, 2026

My name is Alison Healey. I am the State's Attorney for Harford County and a board member of the Maryland State's Attorney's Association (hereinafter MSAA). I am here today to offer my support for House Bill 123.

H.B. 123 would permit State's Attorneys to make the mandatory report to the school system on reportable offenses at the time of arrest, if they become aware that law enforcement has not done so. Currently, only law enforcement may make that report and in the event that State's Attorneys, like myself, find that the school has not been notified, we cannot simply make the report, we have to contact law enforcement telling them to contact the schools, making things much more complicated than is necessary. H.B. 123 simply updates this chain of communication in a way that would have no negative impact on any juvenile respondent in any way.

H.B. 123 also seeks to add additional offenses to the Reportable Offense list. The additional offenses are those that would indicate a potential danger to the many other students in the school system. They include: felonies, Production/Manufacturing of Child Pornography, 4th Degree Sex Offense, Visual Surveillance with Prurient Intent if the victim is a minor, Threats of Mass Violence, Revenge Pornography, and Stalking.

Why are these updates necessary to the Reportable List? To give you an example, in Harford County, a juvenile respondent was found responsible for Manufacturing of Child Pornography after forcing/enticing his toddler siblings to perform sexual acts on each other and filming it. Manufacturing of Child Pornography is not currently a reportable offense. As such, this respondent attends a local high school where there is a toddler/Pre-K program at the location. Certainly, it would be important for the school to know that this could be a potential risk in order to have the appropriate precautions in place in order to protect the students and toddlers in the like programs.

Threats of Mass Violence is likewise not currently a reportable offense. If a juvenile threatens a mass shooting at a school on social media, the school cannot legally be notified of the arrest for this charge, as it does not appear on the reportable offense list.

These are just a few examples of the reasons H.B. 123 is so important. Most notably, we are not dictating what the school must do with this information. Very simply, it is a bill of necessary notification and communication for the safety of all students. The schools need to have the information to make appropriate decisions for all students. We cannot put juveniles who commit crimes above the safety of the thousands and thousands of students in our schools. Very simply put, all of our children must be safe, and House Bill 123 helps to ensure that safety of ALL children.

For these reasons, **I respectfully request a favorable report for House Bill 123.**