
ROBERT G. CASSILLY
Harford County Executive



ROBERT S. McCORD
Director of Administration

February 9, 2026

The Honorable J. Sandy Bartlett
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
100 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Jheanelle Wilkins
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Letter in Support on HB 198 – Reportable Offenses – Notification of Student as Suspect

Dear Madam Chairs and Committee Members:

As many of you will recall, Harford County recently had a student enrolled in the Harford County School System while being investigated for the raping and murdering a young woman. This student walked the halls of Harford County Schools with his violent propensities being known to authorities but not shared with the Harford County School system.

Before you today is legislation – HB 198 – that we strongly believe will help to keep all public schools in Maryland from having to experience the same tragedy. Originally introduced last Session as part of HB 951, this legislation before you today will allow that if a student is the subject of an investigation of an act that – if committed by an adult would be a felony or crime of violence – that law enforcement agency must notify the local State’s Attorney of that investigation within 24 hours of the identification of that student as a suspect, or otherwise as soon as practical.

At that point, the State’s Attorney has the authority to notify the local school system Superintendent (or the Superintendent’s designee) within 24 hours or as soon as practical of the State’s Attorney becoming aware of the investigation. If the investigating law enforcement agency determines that student is no longer a suspect under investigation, that local law enforcement agency shall advise the State’s Attorney of same within 24 hours of making that determination (or as soon as practical).

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The Honorable J. Sandy Bartlett and Honorable Jheanelle Wilkins

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Correspondingly, the State's Attorney shall then notify the Superintendent (or their designee) of such determination.

In addition, the Department of Education will expand in its currently required annual report to the Governor information relative to reportable offenses to include information relative to students that had been identified as a suspect in an applicable incident.

It is imperative that law enforcement and our schools have the information and options necessary to keep dangerous students apart from their innocent and unsuspecting classmates.

On behalf of the students in Harford County and all of Maryland, I respectfully request the Judiciary Committee issue a Favorable Report on HB 198.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


Robert G. Cassilly