

# SENATE BILL 456

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CF HB 502

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By: Senator Sydnor

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2021

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Office of the State's Attorney – Collection and Publication of Prosecutorial  
3 Information**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring each Office of the State's Attorney in each county and  
5 Baltimore City to collect and disclose certain information to the Governor's Office of  
6 Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services; requiring the State's Attorneys to  
7 record and maintain certain information collected for a certain period of time;  
8 requiring each State's Attorney to collect and publish certain information on the  
9 website for each office; requiring the State's Attorneys to affirmatively disclose a  
10 certain fact if certain policies are not maintained; requiring the State's Attorneys to  
11 redact or replace with an anonymizing identifier certain information; requiring the  
12 State's Attorneys to begin making certain information available on or before a  
13 certain date; requiring the State's Attorneys to publish certain information on a  
14 certain website; requiring the State's Attorneys to provide certain information to  
15 certain persons; requiring the Office to determine the manner in which the State's  
16 Attorneys disclose certain information; requiring the Office to determine a schedule  
17 and plan in which the State's Attorneys will report certain information on or before  
18 a certain date; authorizing the Office to implement a certain schedule and plan in a  
19 certain manner; requiring each State's Attorney to begin disclosing certain data to  
20 the Office on or before a certain date; requiring the State's Attorney to complete the  
21 transmission of certain data on or before a certain date; requiring the Office to begin  
22 publishing online certain information in a certain manner on or before a certain date  
23 each year; prohibiting certain data published online from containing certain  
24 individualized or personal information; requiring the Office to issue reports on  
25 certain data in a certain manner; authorizing, under certain circumstances, the  
26 State's Attorneys to satisfy a request for information under the Maryland Public  
27 Information Act (MPIA) by referring the requestor to a certain website; authorizing  
28 a certain requestor of information under the MPIA to seek judicial review under  
29 certain circumstances; making the provisions of this Act severable; defining certain  
30 terms; and generally relating to the Office of the State's Attorney and the collection

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 and publication of information.

2 BY adding to

3 Article – Criminal Procedure

4 Section 15–501 through 15–506 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 5. State’s  
5 Attorney’s Data Collection”

6 Annotated Code of Maryland

7 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

9 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

10 **Article – Criminal Procedure**

11 **SUBTITLE 5. STATE’S ATTORNEY’S DATA COLLECTION.**

12 **15–501.**

13 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
14 INDICATED.

15 (B) “CASE NUMBER” MEANS THE UNIQUE NUMBER ASSIGNED TO A  
16 CRIMINAL CASE ASSOCIATED WITH A PARTICULAR CRIMINAL CHARGE.

17 (C) “CHARGE” MEANS AN ACCUSATION OF A CRIME BY A STATE’S ATTORNEY  
18 INITIATED BY A TICKET, A COMPLAINT, OR ANY OTHER CHARGING DOCUMENT.

19 (D) “CHARGE DESCRIPTION” MEANS:

20 (1) THE NAME OF THE CHARGE AS PROVIDED BY LAW;

21 (2) A STATEMENT OF THE CONDUCT THAT IS ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN  
22 VIOLATED;

23 (3) THE ASSOCIATED STATUTORY SECTION ESTABLISHING THE  
24 ALLEGED CONDUCT AS CRIMINAL; AND

25 (4) THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE CRIME.

26 (E) “CHARGE IDENTIFICATION” MEANS THE UNIQUE IDENTIFICATION  
27 NUMBER ASSIGNED TO THE CHARGE.

28 (F) “CHARGE MODIFIER” MEANS AN AGGRAVATING OR MITIGATING  
29 CIRCUMSTANCE OF AN ALLEGED CHARGE THAT ENHANCES, REDUCES, OR

1 RECLASSIFIES THE ALLEGED CHARGE TO A DIFFERENT CLASSIFICATION GRADE OR  
2 LEVEL.

3 (G) “DISPOSITION” MEANS THE CONCLUSION OF THE PROSECUTION OF A  
4 CHARGE, INCLUDING:

- 5 (1) NOLLE PROSEQUI;
- 6 (2) DIVERSION;
- 7 (3) DISMISSAL;
- 8 (4) DISMISSAL AS PART OF A PLEA BARGAIN;
- 9 (5) CONVICTION AS PART OF A PLEA BARGAIN;
- 10 (6) CONVICTION AT TRIAL; AND
- 11 (7) ACQUITTAL.

12 (H) “INITIATION” MEANS THE CREATION OR INSTITUTION OF A CHARGE  
13 AGAINST A CRIMINAL DEFENDANT, WHETHER BY POLICE, PROSECUTORS, GRAND  
14 JURY, OR OTHER ENTITY.

15 (I) “OFFICE” MEANS THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION,  
16 YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES.

17 (J) (1) “POLICY” MEANS FORMAL OR INFORMAL GUIDANCE FOR  
18 EMPLOYEES OF A STATE’S ATTORNEY, WHETHER OR NOT IN WRITING.

- 19 (2) “POLICY” INCLUDES:
  - 20 (I) A PROCEDURE;
  - 21 (II) A GUIDELINE;
  - 22 (III) A MANUAL;
  - 23 (IV) A TRAINING MATERIAL;
  - 24 (V) A DIRECTION;
  - 25 (VI) AN INSTRUCTION; OR

**(VII) ANY OTHER PIECE OF INFORMATION.**

(K) "STATE'S ATTORNEY" MEANS THE OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY IN EACH COUNTY IN THE STATE AND BALTIMORE CITY.

4           (L)    “UNIQUE IDENTIFIER” MEANS A RANDOMLY GENERATED NUMBER THAT  
5   IS ASSIGNED IN PLACE OF A DEFENDANT’S NAME.

6 15-502.

7 (A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
8 LOCAL AND STATE LAW, EACH STATE'S ATTORNEY SHALL COLLECT AND DISCLOSE,  
9 IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 15-505 OF THIS SUBTITLE, FOR EACH CASE PROSECUTED:

**(1) THE CASE NUMBER;**

**(2) THE INDICTMENT NUMBER;**

**(3) THE DOCKET NUMBER;**

#### (4) THE UNIQUE IDENTIFIER;

**(5) THE DEFENDANT'S:**

(I) RACE;

## (II) GENDER;

**(III) DISABILITY STATUS, IF ANY; AND**

**(IV) THE SOURCE OF THE DISABILITY STATUS, IF ANY;**

**(6) THE INCIDENT DATE;**

**(7) THE ARREST DATE;**

**(8) THE DISTRICT OR NEIGHBORHOOD OF ARREST;**

**(9) THE PRIMARY ARRESTING AGENCY;**

**(10) OTHER AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE ARREST, IF ANY;**

(11) THE CHARGES LISTED ON THE ARRESTING AGENCY'S  
PAPERWORK;

6 (14) THE PROSECUTOR WHO BROUGHT THE CHARGE;

7 (15) WHETHER THE DEFENDANT WAS DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR  
8 COURT-APPOINTED COUNSEL, AND THE PROCEEDING WHERE THE DETERMINATION  
9 WAS MADE;

10 (16) THE ARRAIGNMENT DATE;

11 (17) THE CHARGE MODIFICATION DATE;

12 (18) WHETHER DIVERSION WAS OFFERED AND, IF SO:

13 (I) THE DATE DIVERSION WAS OFFERED;

14 (II) IF STATED ON THE RECORD, THE JUDICIAL POSITION ON  
15 DIVERSION; AND

16 (III) THE DIVERSION TERMS, INCLUDING HOW MUCH THE  
17 DEFENDANT MUST PAY;

18 (19) WHETHER THE CHARGE CARRIES A MANDATORY MINIMUM  
19 SENTENCE;

20 (20) THE PROSECUTOR'S RECOMMENDATION ON BAIL OR BOND,  
21 INCLUDING RELEASE CONDITIONS:

**(21) WHETHER BAIL OR BOND WAS IMPOSED ON THE DEFENDANT:**

**(22) WHETHER BOND WAS SECURED, UNSECURED, OR OTHER TYPE:**

24 (23) THE DATE BAIL OR BOND WAS IMPOSED:

25 (24) IF ORDERED, RELEASE CONDITIONS:

26 (25) THE DATE RANGE OF ANY PRETRIAL DETENTION:

5 (I) THE NAME OF THE OFFICE OR AGENCY THAT CONDUCTED  
6 THE RISK ASSESSMENT; AND

7 (II) THE NAME OF ANY OFFICE, AGENCY, INDIVIDUAL, OR  
8 ATTORNEY THAT RECEIVED THE RISK ASSESSMENT RESULTS;

12 (I) THE DATE OF THE WAIVER;

14 (III) WHETHER THE RIGHT WAS WAIVED AS A CONDITION OF A  
15 PLEA BARGAIN;

16 (28) WHETHER A PLEA WAS OFFERED;

17 (29) WHETHER A TIME LIMIT WAS PROVIDED WITH A PLEA OFFER;

18 (30) ALL TERMS OF ALL PLEAS OFFERED, INCLUDING:

19 (I) THE CHARGES DISMISSED;

20 (II) THE SENTENCE RANGES FOR THE CHARGES DISMISSED;

21 (III) THE CHARGES IN THE PLEA;

22 (IV) THE SENTENCE RANGES FOR THE CHARGES IN THE PLEA,

23 (v) ANY CHARGES COVERED BY THE PLEA BUT NOT PART OF  
24 THE CONVICTION;AND

25 (VI) THE PENALTIES OR SENTENCE OFFERED FOR TAKING THE  
26 PLEA;

**(31) WHETHER THE PLEA WAS ACCEPTED OR REJECTED;**

**(32) WHETHER DISCOVERY WAS OFFERED TO THE DEFENDANT BEFORE**

(33) THE DATE DISCOVERY WAS DISCLOSED TO THE DEFENSE OR  
T;

**(34) THE PRESIDING JUDGE AT THE PRETRIAL STAGE;**

**(35) THE DISPOSITION, INCLUDING:**

(I) THE CASE OR CHARGES DISMISSED BY THE STATE'S  
Y;

**(II) IF DISMISSED, THE REASON FOR DISMISSAL;**

**(III) IF CONVICTED, WHETHER BY PLEA, JURY TRIAL, OR BENCH**

**(IV) IF THE CASE WAS DISMISSED BY A JUDGE, THE REASON FOR**

**(36) THE PRESIDING JUDGE AT THE DISPOSITION;**

**(37) THE DISPOSITION DATE;**

### (38) THE SENTENCE TYPE;

### (39) THE SENTENCE LENGTH;

**(40) THE PRESIDING JUDGE AT SENTENCING.**

#### **(41) SUPERVISION TERMS;**

**(42) SERVICES REQUIRED OR PROVIDED, IF ANY;**

**(43) FINES, FEES, OR SURCHARGES REQUIRED, IF ANY; AND**

**(44) FORFEITURE OF PROPERTY REQUIRED, IF ANY.**

(B) EACH STATE'S ATTORNEY SHALL RECORD AND MAINTAIN THE INFORMATION COLLECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION FOR AT LEAST 10

1   YEARS.

2   **15-503.**

3           **(A) EACH STATE'S ATTORNEY SHALL COLLECT AND PUBLISH ON THE**  
4   **WEBSITE FOR EACH OFFICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 15-504 OF THIS SUBTITLE:**

5           **(1) ALL OFFICE POLICIES RELATED TO:**

6              **(I) CHARGING AND CHARGE DISMISSAL;**

7              **(II) BAIL;**

8              **(III) SENTENCING;**

9              **(IV) PLEA BARGAINS;**

10             **(V) GRAND JURY PRACTICES;**

11             **(VI) DISCOVERY PRACTICES;**

12             **(VII) WITNESS TREATMENT, INCLUDING WHEN AND HOW TO**  
13   **PROCURE A MATERIAL WITNESS WARRANT;**

14             **(VIII) HOW A DECISION IS MADE TO PROSECUTE A MINOR AS AN**  
15   **ADULT;**

16             **(IX) HOW FINES AND FEES ARE ASSESSED;**

17             **(X) CRIMINAL AND CIVIL FORFEITURE PRACTICES;**

18             **(XI) MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING AND COLLECTION OF MENTAL**  
19   **HEALTH HISTORY;**

20             **(XII) SUBSTANCE ABUSE SCREENING AND COLLECTION OF**  
21   **SUBSTANCE ABUSE HISTORY;**

22             **(XIII) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS;**

23             **(XIV) DIVERSION PRACTICES AND POLICIES;**

24             **(XV) HUMAN RESOURCES, INCLUDING:**

- 1                   **1.       HIRING;**
- 2                   **2.       EVALUATING;**
- 3                   **3.       PROMOTING; AND**
- 4                   **4.       ROTATION AMONG DIVISIONS OR UNITS;**

5                   **(XVI) INTERNAL DISCIPLINE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES;**

6                   **(XVII) VICTIM SERVICES;**

7                   **(XVIII) RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMS;**

8                   **(XIX) A LISTING OF OFFICE TRAININGS IN THE IMMEDIATE**  
9    **PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR;**

10                   **(XX) PRACTICES INVOLVING TRACKING AND RESPONDING TO AN**  
11    **INMATE APPLICATION FOR PAROLE AND RESENTENCING; AND**

12                   **(XXI) POLICIES SPECIFIC TO VULNERABLE POPULATIONS;**

13                   **(2) FOR EACH ATTORNEY EMPLOYED:**

14                   **(I) AGE;**

15                   **(II) GENDER;**

16                   **(III) RACE;**

17                   **(IV) DATE HIRED;**

18                   **(V) TITLE; AND**

19                   **(VI) DISCIPLINARY HISTORY; AND**

20                   **(3) THE NUMBER OF:**

21                   **(I) ATTORNEYS ON STAFF;**

22                   **(II) CASES HANDLED EACH YEAR FOR EACH ATTORNEY;**

23                   **(III) ATTORNEYS WHO WORKED IN THE OFFICE IN A TEMPORARY**

1 OR CONTRACTUAL CAPACITY DURING THE IMMEDIATE PRECEDING CALENDAR  
2 YEAR;

3 (IV) PARALEGALS AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF EMPLOYED BY  
4 THE OFFICE;

5 (V) INVESTIGATORS UTILIZED DURING THE IMMEDIATE  
6 PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR;

7 (VI) EXPERTS UTILIZED DURING THE IMMEDIATE PRECEDING  
8 CALENDAR YEAR WHETHER ON STAFF OR OTHERWISE EMPLOYED; AND

9 (VII) POLICE OR DETECTIVES WHO WORK DIRECTLY FOR THE  
10 OFFICE.

11 (B) IF A STATE'S ATTORNEY DOES NOT MAINTAIN A POLICY RELATED TO  
12 THE TOPICS DESCRIBED IN ITEM (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE'S ATTORNEY  
13 SHALL AFFIRMATIVELY DISCLOSE THAT FACT.

14 (C) THE STATE'S ATTORNEY SHALL REDACT OR REPLACE WITH AN  
15 ANONYMIZING IDENTIFIER THE NAMES AND OTHER PERSONALLY IDENTIFYING  
16 INFORMATION COLLECTED AND PUBLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITEM (A)(2) OF  
17 THIS SECTION.

18 15-504.

19 (A) BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2022, EACH STATE'S ATTORNEY SHALL BEGIN  
20 MAKING PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ALL OF THE INFORMATION DESCRIBED IN § 15-503  
21 OF THIS SUBTITLE BY:

22 (1) PUBLISHING THE INFORMATION ON THE STATE'S ATTORNEY'S  
23 WEBSITE; AND

24 (2) PROVIDING THE INFORMATION TO ANY PERSON WHO REQUESTS  
25 THE INFORMATION DIRECTLY FROM THE STATE'S ATTORNEY.

26 (B) THE STATE'S ATTORNEY SHALL INCLUDE IN THE INFORMATION  
27 COLLECTED UNDER § 15-503 OF THIS SUBTITLE:

28 (1) THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE POLICY; OR

29 (2) THE DATE THE INFORMATION WAS GATHERED.

1        (C) EACH STATE'S ATTORNEY SHALL PUBLISH REVISED, UPDATED, OR  
2 NEWLY DRAFTED POLICIES OR NEWLY COLLECTED INFORMATION ON A TIMELY  
3 BASIS AT LEAST ONCE EACH YEAR.

4        **15-505.**

5            (A) THE OFFICE SHALL:

6                (1) DETERMINE THE MANNER IN WHICH THE STATE'S ATTORNEY  
7 DISCLOSES TO THE OFFICE THE INFORMATION COLLECTED UNDER § 15-502 OF  
8 THIS SUBTITLE;

9                (2) ENSURE THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION UNDER THIS  
10 SUBTITLE IS PERFORMED IN A UNIFORM AND CONSISTENT MANNER;

11                (3) (I) DETERMINE AN IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE AND PLAN BY  
12 WHICH THE STATE'S ATTORNEY SHALL DISCLOSE ALL INFORMATION COLLECTED  
13 UNDER § 15-502 OF THIS SUBTITLE ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2024.

14                (II) AT THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE OFFICE, THE  
15 IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE AND PLAN DESCRIBED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF  
16 THIS PARAGRAPH MAY INCLUDE:

17                    1. IMPLEMENTATION ON A ROLLING BASIS THAT STARTS  
18 BY PRIORITIZING A SUBSET OF THE DATA COLLECTED UNDER § 15-502 OF THIS  
19 SUBTITLE; OR

20                    2. PRIORITIZE DISCLOSURE FROM LARGER STATE'S  
21 ATTORNEY OFFICES.

22                (B) (1) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2022, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
23 IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE AND PLAN DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION, EACH  
24 STATE'S ATTORNEY SHALL BEGIN DISCLOSING DATA, STRIPPED OF ANY  
25 INDIVIDUALIZED OR IDENTIFYING PERSONAL INFORMATION ABOUT ANY PERSON  
26 ARRESTED OR PROSECUTED, TO THE OFFICE FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING  
27 CALENDAR YEAR.

28                (2) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 31, 2023, THE STATE'S ATTORNEY  
29 SHALL COMPLETE THE REQUIRED DISCLOSURE OF DATA UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

30                (C) (1) ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2023, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE  
31 OFFICE SHALL BEGIN PUBLISHING ONLINE THE DATA COLLECTED UNDER § 15-502  
32 OF THIS SUBTITLE IN A MODERN, OPEN, ELECTRONIC FORMAT THAT IS

1 MACHINE-READABLE, MACHINE-SEARCHABLE, AND READILY ACCESSIBLE TO THE  
2 PUBLIC ON THE OFFICE'S WEBSITE.

3 (2) DATA PUBLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION MAY  
4 NOT CONTAIN INDIVIDUALIZED OR IDENTIFYING PERSONAL INFORMATION ABOUT  
5 ANY PERSON ARRESTED OR PROSECUTED.

6 (E) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2023, THE OFFICE SHALL:

7 (1) REPORT ON THE DATA RECEIVED FROM THE STATE'S ATTORNEYS,  
8 COMPARING AND CONTRASTING THE PRACTICES AND TRENDS AMONG AND  
9 BETWEEN THE STATE'S ATTORNEYS; AND

10 (2) IDENTIFYING STATE'S ATTORNEYS NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH  
11 THIS SUBTITLE.

12 (F) (1) THE OFFICE SHALL, AT LEAST TWICE PER YEAR, PUBLISH  
13 ISSUE-SPECIFIC REPORTS THAT PROVIDE IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF ONE OR MORE  
14 AREAS OF PROSECUTORIAL DECISION-MAKING.

15 (2) AT LEAST ONE REPORT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL FOCUS  
16 ON RACIAL DISPARITIES.

17 15-506.

18 (A) (1) THE STATE'S ATTORNEY MAY SATISFY A REQUEST FOR  
19 INFORMATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MARYLAND PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT  
20 BY REFERRING THE REQUESTING PARTY TO THE OFFICE WEBSITE CONTAINING THE  
21 DATA IF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY:

22 (I) IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE; AND

23 (II) IN GOOD FAITH, REASONABLY BELIEVES THAT THE  
24 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION CAN BE SATISFIED BY REFERENCE TO THE DATA MADE  
25 PUBLICLY AVAILABLE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

26 (2) IF AN INFORMATION REQUEST IS ABLE TO BE SATISFIED IN  
27 ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION, THE STATE'S ATTORNEY MAY FULFILL THE  
28 REQUEST WITHOUT AFFIRMATIVELY COLLECTING OR DISCLOSING THE PARTICULAR  
29 INFORMATION BEING REQUESTED.

30 (B) THE REQUESTING PARTY MAY SEEK JUDICIAL REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE  
31 WITH § 4-362 OF THE GENERAL PROVISIONS ARTICLE FOR PURPOSES OF

1   **COMPELLING DISCLOSURE IF:**

2                   **(1) THE REQUESTING PARTY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE REQUEST**  
3   **CAN BE SATISFIED UNDER THIS SECTION; AND**

4                   **(2) THE STATE'S ATTORNEY REFUSES TO DISCLOSE THE**  
5   **INFORMATION BEING REQUESTED.**

6                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, if any provision of this Act or  
7   the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason in a  
8   court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or any other  
9   application of this Act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application,  
10   and for this purpose the provisions of this Act are declared severable.

11                  SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
12   October 1, 2021.