

JACK BAILEY  
Legislative District 29  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Judicial Proceedings Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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February 4, 2021

**Senate Bill 268 – Criminal Law – Crime of Violence – Definition**

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 268 – Criminal Law – Crime of Violence – Definition, which would subject more offenders convicted of sexual abuse of a minor to stronger penalties.

In current Maryland law, sexual abuse of a minor in violation of §3-602 of the Criminal Law Article against a victim under the age of 13 is considered a crime of violence under certain circumstances. §3-602 prohibits a parent, another person who has permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for the supervision of a minor, a household member, or a family member from causing sexual abuse to a minor. Senate Bill 268 alters the definition of crime of violence under § 14-101 of the Criminal Law Article to include sexual abuse of a minor under specified circumstances where the offender is an adult and the victim is a minor younger than age 16.

This change strengthens Maryland's criminal laws by making sexual abuse of a minor between the ages of 13 and 15 crimes of violence, which subjects offenders to additional criminal penalties under Maryland law. At this time when Marylanders are increasingly focused on ways to stop crime in our state, this bill could be part of the solution by giving longer sentences to those who sexually abuse minors.

This bill is similar to one that I introduced last year, which I have revised based on feedback from members of this Committee. I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 268. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey  
District 29  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties