

CHRIS WEST  
Legislative District 42  
Baltimore and Carroll Counties

Judicial Proceedings Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

*Annapolis Office*  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 322  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3648 • 301-858-3648  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3648  
Chris.West@senate.state.md.us

*District Office*  
1134 York Road, Suite 200  
Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21093  
410-823-7087

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
The House Judiciary Committee  
The Honorable Luke Clippinger  
Room 101, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: Senate Bill – 209 - Task Force to Study Crime Classification**

Dear Chairman Clippinger and members of the Committee,

Senate Bill 209 establishes a Task Force to study crime classifications and the penalties for all criminal and civil violations in the Maryland Code. The Task Force will study the history and legislative intent of the classifications, and the penalty schemes of similar classifications/penalties in other states. Following the study, the Task Force will report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2024, and make recommendations regarding the current statutory schemes.

This Task Force is a comprehensive measure that will facilitate future legislation in the General Assembly, ensuring that the laws we pass are not only just but attune to the times.

Finally, Senate Bill 209 passed out of Committee and the floor unanimously. I appreciate the Committee's consideration of Senate Bill 209 and will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.