

Bill Number: HB 759
Scott D. Shellenberger, State's Attorney for Baltimore County
Support

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF SCOTT D. SHELLENBERGER,
STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY,
IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 759
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES
SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE COLLECTION KIT REPORTING PROGRAM

I write in support of House Bill 759 that will authorize the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim's Services to administer the Sexual Assault Evidence Kit tracking system that is currently being developed and selected.

I am the Maryland State's Attorney's Representative on the Maryland Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Policy and Funding Committee. Our committee is currently in the process of selecting a vendor who will create a statewide data base for tracking sexual assault kits. The goal of our committee is to establish an inventory system where all who need to know the status of the sexual assault kit will be able to know what stage of processing the kit is in. This includes the victim having access to the database.

House Bill 758 is a law that will empower the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim's Services to create a reporting program to report the location, status and chain of custody for Sexual Assault Evidence Kits. This reporting system is not public but will provide important information to victims, victim crisis programs, child advocacy centers, law enforcement and State's Attorney's Offices.

The Bill also provides for the need to not only report this information going forward but also to inventory what is in the agencies' possession. The Bill sets a deadline for which all Sexual Assault Evidence Kits must be in the tracking system.

This Bill is needed to be able to properly administer the tracking system that will be operational in the near future.

I urge a favorable report.