



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

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HB0614

March 7, 2024

TO: Members of the House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Brandon M. Scott, Mayor, City of Baltimore
RE: House Bill 614 – Criminal Law – Private Home Detention Monitoring – Notification
POSITION: **Support**

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 614.

HB 614 seeks to reduce the amount of time private home detention monitoring agency has before they are required to notify the court system when an individual who is being monitored goes missing. Under current law, these private home detention monitoring agencies who are tasked with monitoring individuals 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, are given a 24-hour period plus an additional business day to make the appropriate notification to the court that ordered the private home detention monitoring as a condition of that individual's pretrial release.

HB 614 would greatly reduce that notification period to require private home detention monitoring agencies to notify the appropriate court immediately upon the conclusion of the initial 24-hour period in which an individual on home detention monitoring has been missing. While this change may seem minor, it can have major implications when considering when an individual on home detention decides to violate the conditions of their pretrial release.

For example, over the course of a holiday weekend, an individual on home detention could leave their home on a Thursday night and the required notification would be required until the end of the business day on the following Monday. Additionally, if the individual goes missing over a holiday weekend, there is an additional day added onto that time period. Since these private agencies are required to monitor 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, there should be no reason why they are not able to notify the courts immediately.

If the 24-hour period happens to fall over the course of a weekend, this bill would require the private home detention monitoring agency to make that notification to the designated duty judge of the county in which the court is located. This allows for quick and comprehensive communication concerning an individual's violation of their pretrial release conditions.

We must continue to pursue all opportunities available to us to make improvements to our public safety systems. Additionally, we must ensure that the companies that are hired to perform home detention monitoring duties are required to perform those duties that align with the best interests of the public good.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a **favorable** report on HB 614.