



Maryland State's Attorneys' Association

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DATE: **January 30, 2024**

BILL NUMBER: **HB 129**

POSITION: **Favorable**

The Maryland State's Attorney's Association (MSAA) supports HB 129, the Kelsey Smith Act for Maryland.

The Kelsey Smith Act for Maryland permits law enforcement agencies, in exigent situations, to obtain electronic device location information from service providers. Designed to assist in the location of missing persons in emergencies, this bill gives law enforcement a powerful tool to save lives in situations where time is of the essence.

Past versions of this bill have been amended to include additional safeguards – such as only permitting location information requests for persons who have been formally reported missing – that balance civil liberties and privacy interests with the need for quick action. MSAA supports these and other guardrails that prevent the use of this tool in inappropriate circumstances while still empowering law enforcement to rescue missing persons before it's too late.