



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

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SB468

April 1, 2024

TO: Members of the House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Brandon M. Scott, Mayor, City of Baltimore
RE: Senate Bill 468 – 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** Senate Bill (SB) 468.

SB 468 seeks to reduce the amount of time private home detention monitoring agency has before they are required to notify appropriate authorities when an individual who is being monitored violates a condition of their release. Under current law, these private home detention monitoring agencies (PHDMAs) 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.

Under current law, 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 is no reason why they are not able to notify the courts immediately.

SB 468 would greatly reduce that notification period to require private home detention monitoring agencies to notify the appropriate court and law enforcement entity when an individual on home detention monitoring has violated a condition of their monitoring. As amended in the Senate, SB468 would require PHDMAs to notify the appropriate entities immediately if the individual has violated an exclusionary zone, within one hour if the individual has tampered with monitoring equipment, and within 24 hours of the violation for all other violations. This reduction in notification periods will have a major impact on ensuring our communities are safer by protecting all residents including those who are under a home monitoring program. I can't stress enough that I have been to multiple crime scenes where I have seen the victim wearing a home monitoring anklet. This bill will save lives. Also as amended in the Senate, SB468 would no longer include the portion to reconstitute a work group. Those provisions have been amended into SB1095 which I view as a partner bill to SB468.

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 SB 468.