



House Bill 1348

Public Safety - Youth Crime Prevention and Diversion Parole Fund - Establishment

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: March 27, 2019

From: Natasha Mehu

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1348 as it provides additional resources to county police forces for improving public safety and preventing youth crime.

HB 1348 would establish a Youth Crime Prevention and Diversion Parole Fund administered by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP). The purpose of the fund is to provide grants to local law enforcement agencies to administer youth diversion and engagement programs with priority given to jurisdictions with the highest number of offenders on parole or under mandatory supervision. The bill requires an annual appropriation of at least \$100,000 for the fund.

The funding will provide help to local law enforcement agencies with the most pressing youth crime needs. Importantly, money awarded from the fund may only supplement and may not supplant other funding for local law enforcement agencies, allowing them to leverage existing resources to meet those needs.

HB 1348 would add to the number of programs and funds administered by GOCCP to help local police enhance public safety and reduce crime. These funding streams and successful partnerships between the state and local law enforcement agencies are key for enabling locals to target and address important local public safety concerns. For these reasons, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1348.