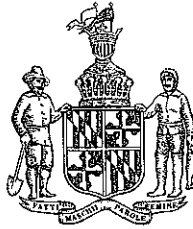


JOSEPH F. VALLARIO, JR.
Legislative District 23B
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Rules and Executive
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April 2017

Dear Members of the Maryland Bench and Bar:

The following is a brief summary of legislation passed by the House Judiciary Committee during the 2017 Legislative Session of the General Assembly. A bill passed, but not yet enacted, is still subject to a veto by the Governor and is indicated by its House Bill ("HB") or Senate Bill ("SB") number. A chapter number ("Ch.") indicates that the bill has been enacted; for ease of reference, the House Bill and/or Senate Bill number is included.

Please note that most of the legislation will not become effective until later this year.

Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Baltimore City and Charles, Prince George's, and Harford Counties - Recall of Former Judge for Temporary Assignment: HB 1344 and SB 182 (Ch. 10) alter, from three years to two years, the minimum number of years that a former judge in Baltimore City and Charles, Harford, and Prince George's counties must have served in order to be eligible to be recalled for temporary service.

District Court Commissioners - Residency: SB 746 authorizes District Court Commissioners to serve in counties contiguous to the counties in which they reside. However (1) District Court Commissioners in Baltimore City must be residents of Baltimore City; (2) District Court Commissioners in Anne Arundel County must be residents of Anne Arundel County or a contiguous county, except Baltimore City; and (3) District Court Commissioners in Baltimore County must be residents of Baltimore County or a contiguous county, except Baltimore City.

In-House Counsel: HB 236 and SB 794 authorize an individual who is admitted to the bar of any other state to provide legal advice to the individual's *employer* or the *employer's organizational affiliates* instead of being limited to an individual who is an employee of a corporation.

Maryland Legal Services Corporation Fund - Surcharges: HB 972 and SB 811 repeal the termination date of the provisions of law that increased the surcharge on fees, charges, and costs in civil cases. Repealing the termination date continues surcharges of \$55 on civil cases filed in the circuit court, \$8 for summary ejectment cases, and \$18 for all other civil cases in the District

Court. Money from the surcharge is deposited into the Maryland Legal Services Corporation Fund, which is used to finance civil legal services to indigent clients.

Candidate for Circuit Court Judge Defeated in Primary Election: HB 1382 and SB 1121 prohibit the name of a candidate for the office of judge of the circuit court who is defeated in the primary election in each contest for the office of circuit court judge in which the candidate appears on the ballot from appearing on the ballot at the succeeding general election as a candidate for any office.

Small Claim Action Appeals - Nonattorney Representation: SB 500 exempts specified representatives or designees of a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or business entity from the requirement of admission to the Bar of Maryland and other requirements set by the Maryland Court of Appeals for representing the entity in an appeal from the District Court of Maryland in a small claims case. Under existing statute, these individuals are exempt from bar admission and other requirements in a small claims case in the District Court of Maryland.

Behavioral Health Administration - Outpatient Civil Commitment Pilot Program: HB 1383 and SB 1042 authorize the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to establish an outpatient civil commitment (OCC) pilot program to allow for the release of an individual who is involuntarily admitted for inpatient treatment under specified provisions of the Health-General Article on condition of the individual's admission into the pilot program. If BHA establishes a pilot program, BHA must (1) adopt criteria for an individual to be admitted into the pilot program; (2) establish application, hearing, and notice requirements; and (3) specify the rights of an individual who may be or who has been admitted into the pilot program. By December 1 of each year the pilot program is in existence, BHA must submit a report that includes specified information on admissions, costs, treatment, and any other information that may be useful in determining whether a permanent OCC process should be established.

State Compensation for Erroneous Conviction and Imprisonment - Certification of Error: HB 593 and SB 348 change a requirement that an erroneously convicted individual must receive a gubernatorial pardon to be eligible for payments by the Board of Public Works to provide that an individual is also eligible for payments if the person was granted a writ of actual innocence and the State's Attorney certifies that the individual's conviction was in error.

Family Law

Divorce - Restoration of Former Name: HB 793 and SB 83 allow a party who wishes to restore the use of a former name after an absolute divorce to file a motion within 18 months after a final decree of absolute divorce is entered. A court must change the name of the party as long as specified conditions are met.

Guardianship and Child in Need of Assistance Proceedings - Jurisdiction and Authority of Juvenile Court: HB 279 and SB 272 authorize, at a disposition hearing in a child in need of assistance (CINA) proceeding, and requires, at a permanency planning hearing, the juvenile court, with regard to a child with a developmental disability, to direct the provision of services to obtain

ongoing care, if any, needed after the court's jurisdiction ends. The court retains jurisdiction to rule on any motion related to the enforcement, modification, or termination of the order for as long as the order is effective. The bill adds related requirements to provisions regarding guardianships.

Child Support - Health Insurance – Definition: HB 926 defines the term “health insurance” for purposes of calculating a child support obligation under the State child support guidelines by establishing that “health insurance” includes medical, dental, and vision insurance and prescription drug coverage.

Child Support - Noncompliance With Court Order - License Suspension: HB 1047 and SB 906 expand the circumstances, to include certain hardship exemptions, under which an individual who has received notice of a potential professional license suspension due to a child support arrearage may request an investigation with the Child Support Enforcement Administration (CSEA). CSEA must provide notice of this right to an obligor, as specified. The bills also expand the reasons under which CSEA is to notify a licensing authority to reinstate a license.

Domestic Violence

Public Safety - Regulated Firearms - Definition of Convicted of a Disqualifying Crime: HB 294 and SB 224 alter the definition of “convicted of a disqualifying crime” for purposes of a prohibition against possession of a regulated firearm, rifle, or shotgun to include a case in which a person received a probation before judgement for assault in the second degree if the crime was a domestically related crime.

Divorce - Domestic Violence Order: HB 293 repeals provisions of law that prohibit an order or decision in a domestic violence protective order proceeding from being admissible as evidence in a divorce proceeding. It also repeals a provision that prohibits a court from considering compliance with a domestic violence protective order as grounds for granting a decree of limited or absolute divorce.

Juvenile Law

Department of Juvenile Services - Implementation of Task Force Recommendations – Report: SB 982 requires the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), by December 1, 2017, to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force to Study the Restraint, Searches, and Needs of Children in the Juvenile Justice System, which has been investigating DJS procedures regarding the shackling and strip searching of juveniles.

Juvenile Services - Services and Programs for Females: HB 721 and SB 674 require the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to serve children in the juvenile services system with programming that provides females with a range and quality of services to meet their specific needs, including diversion programs, community detention services and programs, and reentry services and programs. DJS is required to submit reports on the implementation of the bills' requirements.

Informal Adjustment - Mental Health Program: SB 35 authorizes a juvenile informal adjustment process to exceed 90 days without prior court approval if the intake officer determines that additional time is necessary for the child to participate in a substance-related disorder treatment program or a mental health program as part of the informal adjustment process.

Juvenile Court Records – Disclosure: SB 43 creates an additional exception to the general rule of confidentiality of juvenile records by establishing that the Department of Human Resources (DHR) may have access to and confidential use of a court record for the purpose of claiming federal Title IV-B funds, which provide support for child welfare services.

Child Abuse

Child Sexual Abuse - Statute of Limitations and Required Findings: HB 642 (Ch. 12) extends the statute of limitations for child sexual abuse by establishing that an action for damages arising out of an alleged incident or incidents of sexual abuse that occurred while the victim was a minor must be filed (1) at any time before the victim reaches the age of majority or (2) within the later of 20 years after the date on which the victim reaches the age of majority or 3 years after the date that the defendant is convicted of a crime relating to the alleged incident or incidents, as specified.

Child Abuse - Sex Trafficking (Protecting Victims of Sex Trafficking Act of 2017): HB 632 and SB 308 alter the definition of “sexual abuse” in provisions of law relating to the reporting and investigation of suspected child abuse and neglect to include “sex trafficking” of a child, regardless of the victim’s relationship with the alleged abuser. “Sex trafficking” is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a child for the purpose of a commercial sex act.

Children in Need of Assistance - Sex Trafficking: HB 1219 and SB 912 make related changes by altering the definition of “sexual abuse” in provisions of law relating to a “child in need of assistance” (CINA) to include “sex trafficking” of a child, regardless of the victim’s relationship with the alleged abuser.

Child Abuse and Neglect – Definitions: HB 1263 and SB 996 alter the definition of “abuse” and “sexual abuse” in provisions of law relating to the reporting and investigation of suspected child abuse and neglect, to include acts by a person who, because of the person’s position or occupation, exercises authority over the child. The bills also alter the definition of “mental injury” to mean the observable, identifiable, and substantial impairment of a child’s mental or psychological ability to function caused by an intentional act or series of acts, regardless of whether there was an intent to harm the child.

Civil Actions

Maryland False Claims Act - Municipal Corporations: SB 26 expands the definition of “governmental entity” under the Maryland False Claims Act to include a municipal corporation. The bill applies prospectively to causes of action arising on or after October 1, 2017.

Injury to or Death of Pet – Damages: SB 143 establishes that a person who tortiously causes an injury to or death of a pet while acting through an animal under the person’s ownership is liable to the owner of the pet for compensatory damages. The bill increases a statutory provision limiting the maximum compensatory damages awardable in cases relating to tortious injury to or death of a pet from \$7,500 to \$10,000. The bill applies prospectively to causes of action arising on or after October 1, 2017.

Criminal Injuries Compensation - Impaired Boating: HB 295 establishes that a victim of a violation of operating a vessel while under the influence of alcohol or impaired by alcohol or drugs is eligible for financial assistance for victims of crime through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

Vehicle Law

Code Revision - Maryland Vehicle Law – Penalties: SB 165 (Ch. 55) revises, restates, and recodifies the laws of the State that relate to penalties for violations of the Maryland Vehicle Law.

Driver Improvement Program and Failure to Pay Child Support - Driver's License Suspensions - Penalties and Assessment of Points: HB 844 and SB 799 repeal the term of imprisonment, reduce the maximum fine, and reduce the points assessed for a person convicted of driving a vehicle while the person’s driver’s license or privilege to drive is suspended for (1) being out of compliance with making child support payments or (2) failure to attend a required driver improvement program.

Motor Vehicle Administration - Driving Records – Expungement: HB 1017 alters the standards and procedures related to the expungement of public driving records by the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) so that certain records, which currently require an application for expungement, are automatically expunged. However, the bill prohibits the MVA from expunging certain driving records, including (1) entries required for assessment of subsequent offender penalties and (2) entries related to a moving violation or an accident that resulted in the death of another person.

Victim's Representative Notification - License Suspension Hearing: HB 1071 requires the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention to develop, and update as necessary, a uniform victim’s representation notification form for a victim’s representative to receive notification of a license suspension hearing as a result of a moving violation that contributed to a fatality. The bill also requires the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to distribute the form to each law enforcement agency in the State.

Drugged Driving

Homicide by Motor Vehicle or Vessel While Impaired by Controlled Dangerous Substance – Penalties: HB 635 and SB 229 increase the maximum incarceration penalty for homicide by motor vehicle or vessel while impaired by a controlled dangerous substance (CDS) from 3 years to 5 years. Additionally, the bills increase the maximum incarceration penalty, from 5 years to 10 years, for those who commit this offense after having previously been convicted of committing

that same offense or any of the following offenses: (1) manslaughter by vehicle or vessel – gross negligence; (2) manslaughter by vehicle or vessel – criminal negligence; (3) homicide by motor vehicle or vessel while under the influence of alcohol or under the influence of alcohol *per se*; (4) homicide by motor vehicle or vessel while impaired by alcohol; (5) homicide by motor vehicle or vessel while impaired by drugs; (6) causing life-threatening injury by motor vehicle or vessel while under the influence of alcohol or under the influence of alcohol *per se*, or while impaired by alcohol, drugs, or a CDS; or (7) driving while under the influence of alcohol or under the influence of alcohol *per se*, while impaired by alcohol, while impaired by drugs or drugs and alcohol, or while impaired by a CDS.

Law Enforcement & Corrections

Baltimore Police Department – Reporting on Community Policing: HB 226 alters the date, from January 1 to February 1, by which the Police Commissioner of Baltimore City must report specified information concerning the Baltimore Police Department to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and the members of the Baltimore City delegation to the General Assembly each year. In addition, the bill alters the information required regarding the number of instances of use of force to when the use of force resulted in the transport of a civilian to a hospital by an emergency vehicle.

Baltimore City – Civilian Review Board: HB 1037 and SB 166 alter the time limit for filing a complaint for excessive force with the Baltimore City Civilian Review Board from within 90 days to within one year of the alleged act giving rise to the complaint. In addition, the bills repeal the requirement for a complaint to be witnessed by a notary public and instead require that the complaint be signed and sworn to, under the penalty of perjury, by the complainant.

Police Training Commission – Training Requirements – Human Trafficking: HB 1279 and SB 220 require the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to expand the curriculum and the minimum courses of study of police training conducted by police training schools to include special training, attention to, and study of the application and enforcement of the criminal laws concerning human trafficking, including services and support available to victims and the rights and appropriate treatment of victims.

Prince George’s County Pretrial Release, Work Release, and Diversion Programs Task Force PG 305-17: HB 1574 establishes the Prince George’s County Pretrial Release, Work Release, and Diversion Programs Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding the establishment of a pretrial release program, work release program, and diversion program in Prince George’s County. The Prince George’s County Department of Corrections must provide staff for the task force. By December 1, 2017, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the members of the Prince George’s County Delegation.

Howard County - Fire and Explosive Investigator - Authority Ho. Co. 24-17: HB 1343 expands the authority of a fire and explosive investigator in Howard County to be commensurate with fire and explosive investigators in the cities of Annapolis and Hagerstown and in Anne Arundel, Montgomery, Prince George’s and Worcester counties. These investigators are classified

as “law enforcement officials” and have the same authority as the State Fire Marshal and assistants, including the authority to make a warrantless arrest under certain circumstances.

Public Safety - Eyewitness Identification Policies - Repeal of Submission Requirement: SB 24 (Ch. 8) repeals the requirement for each law enforcement agency in the State to file a copy of a written policy relating to eyewitness identification procedures with the Department of State Police (DSP). The bill also repeals the requirement for DSP to compile the written policies and allow public inspection of each policy.

Carroll County - Detention Center - Polygraph Testing: HB 565 and SB 372 exempt an applicant for employment as a correctional officer of the Carroll County Detention Center or in any other capacity that involves direct personal contact with an inmate in the detention center from the prohibition against an employer requiring or demanding, as a condition of employment, prospective employment, or continued employment, that an individual submit to or take a polygraph examination.

Public Safety - SWAT Teams - Standards: HB 739 and SB 941 require the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) to consult and cooperate with commanders of SWAT teams to develop standards for training and deployment of SWAT teams and of law enforcement officers who are not members of a SWAT team who conduct no-knock warrant service in the State based on best practices in the State and nationwide.

Criminal Law – Substantive Crimes

Crime of Violence –Home Invasion: HB 906 adds felony home invasion under § 6-202(b) of the Criminal Law Article to the definition of “crime of violence” under § 14-101 of the Criminal Law Article.

Sexual Offenses – Physical Resistance: HB 429 and SB 217 specify that evidence of physical resistance by the victim is not required to prove that a crime under Title 3, Subtitle 3 of the Criminal Law Article was committed. However, the fact that this evidence is not required may not be construed to affect the admissibility of evidence of actual physical resistance by the victim.

Sexual Offenses – Classification: HB 647 and SB 944 (1) reclassify criminal conduct currently classified as a sexual offense in the first degree and sexual offense in the second degree as rape in the first degree and rape in the second degree, respectively, and (2) make conforming statutory changes.

Sex Offenses – Out-of-State Convictions: HB 738 establishes that a prior conviction not arising from the same incident from another state, or in a federal military or Native American tribal court, that if committed in this State would be considered a violation of § 3-303 (first-degree rape), § 3-304 (second-degree rape), § 3-305 (first-degree sexual offense), or § 3-306 (second-degree sexual offense) of the Criminal Law Article, may serve as a predicate crime for an additional penalty for repeat sexual offenders.

Distribution of Controlled Dangerous Substances - Fentanyl: SB 539 prohibits a person from knowingly distributing or possessing with the intent to distribute (1) a mixture of controlled dangerous substances (CDS) that contains heroin and a detectable amount of fentanyl or any analogue of fentanyl or (2) fentanyl or any analogue of fentanyl. A violation is a felony and, in addition to any other penalty imposed, is subject to imprisonment for up to 10 years. A sentence imposed for a violation of this prohibition must be served consecutively to any other sentence imposed.

Criminal Procedure

Charges Against Correctional Officer – Review by State’s Attorney: HB 166 and SB 207 expand the definition of “law enforcement officer” to include specified law enforcement personnel and a correctional officer. Accordingly, the bills apply the requirements for (1) an application for a statement of charges to be forwarded to a State’s Attorney; (2) the State’s Attorney to investigate the circumstances; and (3) the State’s Attorney to make a recommendation to the District Court Commissioner, to an application pertaining to specified law enforcement personnel and a correctional officer.

Sexual Assault Victims’ Rights – Disposal of Rape Kit Evidence and Notification: HB 255 and SB 349 require a health care provider that performs a sexual assault evidence collection kit exam on a victim of sexual assault to provide the victim with written information describing the laws and policies governing the testing, preservation, and disposal of a sexual assault evidence collection kit. The bills specify when a sexual assault evidence collection kit must be transferred to a law enforcement agency, when a sexual assault evidence collection kit or other crime scene evidence relating to a sexual assault may be destroyed or disposed of, and when such evidence must be retained.

Expungement – Possession of Marijuana: SB 949 expands eligibility for expungements to include convictions for possession of marijuana under § 5-601 of the Criminal Law Article. A petition for expungement based on a conviction for possession of marijuana under § 5-601 of the Criminal Law Article may not be filed within four years after the conviction or satisfactory completion of the sentence, including probation, that was imposed for the conviction, whichever is later.

Sex Offender Registrant – Notice of International Travel: HB 521 increases, from at least 3 days to at least 21 days, the time period before which a registered sex offender must notify each local law enforcement unit where the registrant resides or habitually lives before leaving the United States to commence residence or employment or attend school in a foreign country.

Expungement – Common Law Battery: HB 836 expands the list of convictions eligible for expungement under Chapter 515 of 2016 (the Justice Reinvestment Act) to include a misdemeanor conviction for common law battery. A petition for expungement based on a conviction of common law battery may not be filed earlier than 15 years after the person satisfies the sentence or sentences imposed for all convictions for which expungement is requested, including parole, probation, or mandatory supervision.

Testing – HIV and Hepatitis C: HB 1375 and SB 781 add hepatitis C to § 11-107 of the Criminal Procedure Article as a disease for which a person charged with causing a prohibited exposure to a victim may be tested. The court is authorized to order a person charged with a prohibited exposure to give a blood sample to be tested for the presence of hepatitis C. The court is required to order a test of a blood sample for hepatitis C within 10 days of a victim or victim’s representative’s written request to the State’s Attorney in the county where a prohibited exposure occurred. The bills also contain provisions regarding emergency court orders to use oral swabs to test for the presence of HIV in prohibited exposure cases. Finally, the bills expand the definition of a “victim” of a prohibited exposure to include a health care provider who is exposed to HIV or hepatitis C while working under the direction of a law enforcement agency or while performing a sexual assault medical evidence collection examination.

Solicitation to Commit Murder or Arson - Statute of Limitations: HB 653 and SB 387 increase the statute of limitations for the prosecution of the crime of solicitation to commit murder in the first or second-degree or arson in the first or second degree from one year to three years.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Board - Claimant Award Basis: SB 22 (Ch. 7) alters, from two continuous weeks to \$100, the minimum eligibility threshold for an award of lost earnings or support from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF). It also establishes eligibility for parents, children, or spouses of victims who died as a direct result of a crime or delinquent act to receive an award for lost wages. Such individuals are eligible for an award of up to two weeks of lost average weekly wages, but compensation for these claims may not exceed \$2,000 per incident.

Indigent Individual - Bail Review and Indigency Determination: SB 714 requires a District Court commissioner to determine whether a person qualifies as indigent for purposes of eligibility for representation by the Office of the Public Defender (OPD) and outlines steps to be followed in the indigency determination process.

Conditional Release - Electronic Monitoring (Amber's Law): HB 1163 requires a judicial officer, on a finding of probable cause and before the issuance of an arrest warrant or summons, to provide to an individual filing an application for a statement of charges an opportunity to request reasonable protections for the safety of an alleged victim or the victim’s family. A victim impact statement for a crime or delinquent act must identify any request by the victim for electronic monitoring or electronic monitoring with victim stay away alert technology (a system of electronic monitoring that is capable of notifying a victim if the defendant is at or near a location from which the defendant has been ordered by the court to stay away). The State Board of Victim Services must develop pamphlets to notify victims regarding how to request that an offender be placed on electronic monitoring or electronic monitoring with victim stay-away alert technology.

Postsentencing - Victim Notification: HB 1526 expands who is regarded as a victim for the purpose of notification of parole release hearings, commutations, pardons, or sentence remissions. The bill also expands post sentencing victim notification requirements regarding an offender’s mandatory supervision release, parole, predetermined parole release agreement, violation of a condition of parole or mandatory supervision, commutation of sentence, pardon, or remission of sentence to apply to a conviction of any crime rather than only a violent crime. The bill similarly expands the types of crimes for which a victim may submit a victim impact statement to the

Maryland Parole Commission or the Division of Parole and Probation. The bill also limits those who may be designated as a victim representative for the purpose of specified expanded notifications.

Sexual Assault Victims Resources Act of 2017: SB 734 (1) expands the services that sexual assault crisis programs in the State must provide and (2) requires the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of at least \$3 million for the federally recognized State sexual assault coalition and sexual assault crisis programs, as specified. Under specified circumstances, the Governor is authorized to reduce the mandated appropriation by up to 40%. The bill also establishes the Maryland Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Policy and Funding Committee. In fiscal 2018 and in each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor must include funds in the State budget to implement the bill's provisions relating to the committee, including funds to operate and maintain an office and employ a full-time assistant Attorney General to staff the committee and assist with the implementation of regulations that must be adopted.

Taxpayer Protection Act: SB 304 makes several changes to current provisions of law regarding tax enforcement and compliance, including registration of tax preparers, authorized taxing officials, police powers of the Comptroller's Field Enforcement Bureau, electronic filing of W-2 forms, confidentiality of tax information, and penalties and fines.

Firearms

Baltimore City School Police Force – Vehicles and Firearms – Report: HB 52 requires the Baltimore City School Police Force to submit a report to the members of the Baltimore City Delegation to the General Assembly beginning July 1, 2017, and every two years thereafter on (1) the condition of vehicles and firearms of the Baltimore City School Police Force and (2) the anticipated needs for vehicles and firearms for the following two years.

Public Safety – Firearm Application: HB 162 and SB 16 require that a firearm application contain an applicant's handgun qualification license (HQL) number instead of a copy of the HQL. The bill also clarifies that the requirement does not apply if the applicant is not required to obtain an HQL.

Handgun Permits - Alternative Expiration Date - Private Detectives, Security Guards, and Special Police Officers: HB 877 and SB 23 authorize the Secretary of State Police to establish an alternative expiration date for a permit to carry, wear, or transport a handgun if the permit holder has been issued a license, certification, or commission to be a security guard, a private detective, or a special police officer.

Animal Abuse and Cruelty

Anne Arundel County and Harford County - Courthouse Dog and Child Witness Pilot Program: SB 77 expands the Courthouse Dog and Child Witness Pilot Program in the circuit courts for Anne Arundel and Harford counties by defining a "child witness" as a witness who is a minor when the witness testifies in *any* court proceeding.

Animal Cruelty – Applicability: HB 455 and SB 790 These bills clarify that a person is guilty of animal abuse or neglect if the person has charge or custody of an animal and unnecessarily fails to provide the animal with *any* one of the following: proper air, proper space, proper shelter, or proper protection from the weather. Similarly, these bills clarify that a person is guilty of aggravated cruelty to animals if the person does *any* one of the following intentional acts: mutilates, tortures, cruelly beats, or cruelly kills an animal.

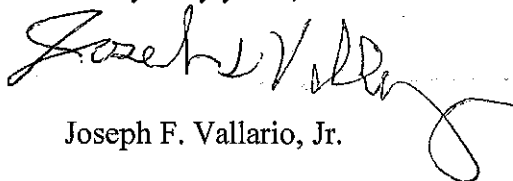
Miscellaneous

Workgroup to Study Safe Harbor Policy for Youth Victims of Human Trafficking - Sunset Extension: SB 1017 extends the termination date for the Workgroup to Study Safe Harbor Policy for Youth Victims of Human Trafficking from June 30, 2017, to June 30, 2019. The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) must continue to provide staff for the workgroup. The workgroup must submit a supplemental report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2017; a second supplemental report is due by December 1, 2018.

Bail Bond - Installment Contract - Form and Confessed Judgment Prohibition: SB 459 requires an agreement to accept payment for the premium charged for a bail bond in installments to be in a form approved by the Maryland Insurance Commissioner and prohibits a bail bondsman from including a confessed judgment clause that waives a consumer's right to assert a legal defense to an action in such an agreement. The bill also prohibits a confessed judgment clause that waives a consumer's right to assert a legal defense to an action from being included in a bail bond agreement. Under the bill, this activity is considered an unfair method of competition and an unfair and deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance.

More information about these bills and other legislation can be found at the Maryland General Assembly's webpage, www.mgaleg.maryland.gov, or please call 301.858.3488 or email the House Judiciary Committee (joseph.vallario@house.state.md.us).

Very truly yours,



Joseph F. Vallario, Jr.

