



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Signs Bill Allowing Parole and Probation Faster Action on Warrant-Issuing

15,500+ Probation Violators In 2008

TOWSON, MD (May 19, 2009)---Governor Martin O'Malley today signed House Bill 1545, which effectively speeds-up the warrant-serving process for probation violators, giving Maryland's Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) a head start on finding potential violent repeat offenders.

Probation violators far outnumber those who violate parole, but until today, DPP only had the authority to immediately serve signed warrants for parole violators. The bill signed today extends DPP's authority to probation violators as well. This means that as soon as DPP receives a court-signed violation warrant, the agency can hand it off to the Warrant Apprehension Unit directly, which hopefully can reduce the burden on local law enforcement and speed-up the process. This has the potential to more quickly locate probation violators, some of whom may be repeat violent offenders.

DPP has been hailed for its Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI), which targets repeat violent offenders statewide. This bill also has the potential to help further the VPI effort.

DPP agents do an outstanding job handling the cases of more than 71,000 Marylanders across the state who are on parole, probation, or drinking driver monitor supervision.

During 2008, more than 15,500 probationers alone violated their supervision, either by committing a new crime, absconding, or being otherwise non-compliant with technical violations. The new law may allow for DPP to find some of those violators faster.

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