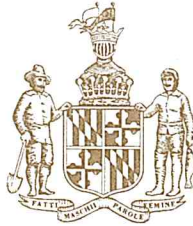


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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

***TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 608***

***PUBLIC SAFETY – MARYLAND POLICE TRAINING AND  
STANDARDS COMMISSION***

***JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE***

***FEBRUARY 17, 2020***

Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstreicher, and Fellow Committee Members:

Senate Bill 608 is a piece of legislation that makes multiple changes to the work and administrative processes of the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission. As you all know, the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission sets the basic standards for the institutions that offer police and security training. Additionally, it creates the curriculum for police training schools along with the corresponding requirements for attendance and eligibility. Made up of twenty-four members, the Governor appoints eight members to three-year terms. Two senators are appointed by the Senate President, and two delegates by the House Speaker with twelve members serving ex officio.

The legislation makes changes to multiple facets of the commission. Chiefly among the changes are designating the Secretary of the State Police as the permanent chair of the commission, allowing non-Gubernatorial appointed members of the commission to designate representatives to attend meetings on their behalf, and multiple enhanced entry-level and in-service training requirements. Among the entry level and in-service training enhancements are requirements to supplement training in criminal laws related to rape and sexual abuse, human trafficking, and evidentiary procedures. Additionally, new training would be required in the areas of de-escalation in the use of force, the prevention of profiling, and in the recognition and prevention of discrimination based on race, color, religion or creed, national origin or ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, marital status, veteran status, genetic information, and citizenship status.

As someone who spent the majority of his professional career in law enforcement, ensuring that law enforcement professionals receive the most thorough and effective training possible is something that is very important to me. This legislation will help to provide officers with the tools necessary to do their jobs effectively and to ensure the successful performance of their duties.

**For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 608.**