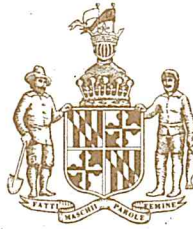


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TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 752

PUBLIC SAFETY – USE OF FORCE INCIDENT REPORTS

JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

MARCH 1, 2022

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 752 is a very straightforward bill that requires the reporting and publishing of Use of Force Data for Maryland police agencies. The bill would require two types of reporting. Beginning on or before July 1, 2024, agencies would be required to publish aggregate data related to use of force incidents on their public websites. Then beginning on or before January 1, 2023 (and every three months thereafter) agencies would be required to publish total numbers of use of force incidents on their public websites.

The types of data reported would include the type of encounter in which force was used, the type of force used, the geographic location at which force was used, the justification for the use of force, information relating to charges filed against those on whom force was used, and medical and demographic information related to those on whom force was used.

As the former leader of a police agency myself, I strongly believe that providing detailed information to the public is critical to ensuring transparency and to fostering trust between agencies and the public. The reporting requirements put forward in this legislation would be a means to that end.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 752.