



# M a r y l a n d Troopers Association



INCORPORATED 1979

March 1, 2022

The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chairman and Members of the Judiciary Committee

**RE: HB 1042 – Public Information Act – Police Officers – Unfounded Complaints**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

The MTA supports HB 1042 which specifies that an investigation of misconduct by a police officer is considered a personnel record if the result determines that the complaint of misconduct was unfounded.

Unfounded complaints should be exempt from public release. Baseless complaints against law enforcement officers should not be accessible to the public for misuse where no misconduct is found. Because disciplinary records are no longer subject to expungement, this would not preclude MPTSC or other law enforcement agencies from seeing unfounded complaints if needed for future employment, or other reasons. Further, if unfounded complaints are subject to public view, it would be far too easy to initiate a smear campaign against an officer for personal reasons.

Therefore, we support HB 1042 and urge a favorable report.

Brian Blubaugh  
President  
Maryland Troopers Association