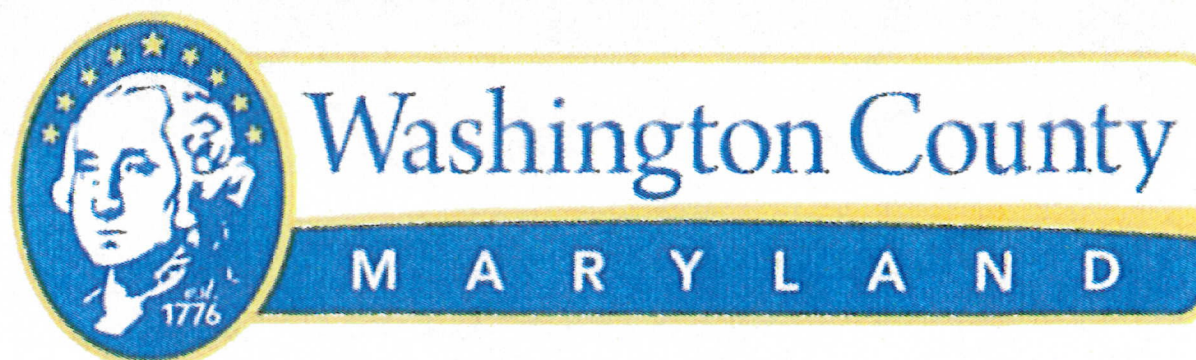


John F. Barr, *President*
Jeffrey A. Cline, *Vice President*



Derek Harvey
Wayne K. Keefer
Randall E. Wagner

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND**

February 3, 2023

Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
Appropriations Committee
Room 121
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 637; Washington County-Deputy Sheriff's and Correctional
Deputies-Employment Conditions and Collective Bargaining: SUPPORT

Dear Delegate Barnes:

By a vote of 5-0, the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County unanimously supports House Bill 637. HB 637 would alter the grounds on which a deputy sheriff with the rank of major or below, in Washington County, may be discharged after two years of continuous employment; provides that a special deputy sheriff in Washington County is not a State employee for certain reasons; and authorizes sworn deputy sheriffs at the rank of sergeant and below and correctional deputies at the rank of sergeant and below to engage in collective bargaining with the Washington County Sheriff and the County Administrator.

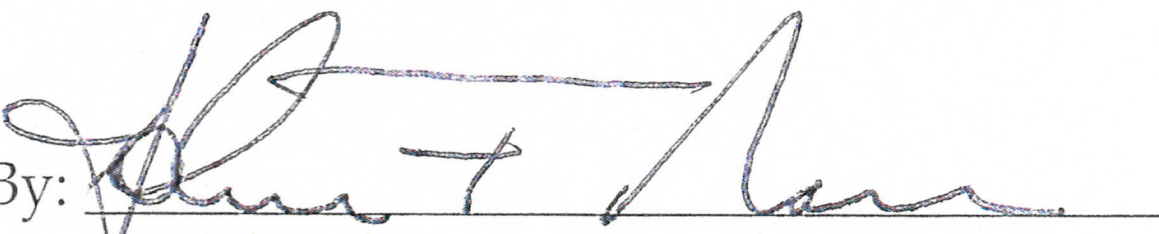
This bill updates certain terminology to comply with changes in State law as a result of the Police Accountability Act. The bill also authorizes the Sheriff and County to engage in collective bargaining with sworn deputies and correctional officers. Collective bargaining would not occur unless the sworn deputies and/or correctional officers of certain ranks asked to be recognized as a collective bargaining unit. The bill defines the issues that could be the subject of the collective bargaining negotiations.

For these reasons, the Board of County Commissioners urges the Committee to approve HB 637.

Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
Appropriations Committee
February 3, 2023
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Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: 
John F. Barr, President

cc (via email): Delegate William J. Wivell
Delegate Terry L. Baker
Delegate Brook Grossman
Delegate William Valentine