

Testimony Against SB0048

Please vote against HB0048.

At first glance, the argument that a permanent legal resident who has honorably served or is serving honorably in our military should be eligible to become a police officer in Maryland seems reasonable.

However, this bill goes too far in removing the requirement to have applied to become a citizen of the United States and has a pending application or will be terminated if one has failed to receive citizenship (Page 2, lines 14-15 and lines 21-23).

Removing a citizenship requirement just continues the perception that being a citizen has less value as legislatures around the country at local, state and national levels continue to grant more benefits to legal and illegal residents such as reduced or free education, housing, and medical care.

Until the pending citizenship requirement is restored, please vote against this bill.

If one wants to increase the number of applicants for the police perhaps the state and local jurisdictions should offer more pay, and restore the protections from lawsuits that the police had prior to the Freddie Gray and George Floyd incidents.

Those who thought that defunding the police was a good idea are now beginning to reap the results of that action.

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