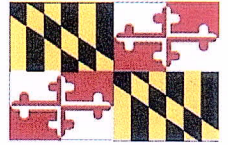




CLYDE BOATWRIGHT
STATE PRESIDENT

Maryland State Lodge
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

8302 COVE ROAD, BALTIMORE, MD 21222



KENNY SCHUBERT
SECRETARY

EARL KRATSCH
TREASURER

February 20, 2024

SB 607 - Public Safety – Police Accountability and Discipline – Summary Punishment

Dear Chairman Smith and Distinguished Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

The Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police **Supports Senate Bill 607 - Public Safety – Police Accountability and Discipline – Summary Punishment ONLY IF it is AMENDED** as requested.

Senate Bill 607 would authorize and establish summary punishment of a police officer for minor violations of Agency rules and regulations as long as the facts that constitute the violation are not in dispute and the summary punishment does not exceed a written reprimand. While the FOP agrees that the ability to be able to handle minor incidents that all agree should be handled quickly to deal with the incident and move on is necessary and proper, we also believe that **SB 607** leaves out important facts that also need to be included to ensure the rights of the officers are preserved. On Page 2 of **SB 607**, Paragraph (D) and (E) remove the officer’s rights to an Administrative Hearing Board if summary punishment is imposed and make summary punishment non appealable. For the FOP to agree that this would be an acceptable way of adjudicating minor discipline without having to go through the full process that is currently law, we believe the officer needs to agree that the facts are not in dispute and agree to the discipline. **SB 607** in its current form does not stipulate as to whether or not the officer is included in the parties that need to agree whether or not the facts are in dispute. Our fear is that the Agency can say no one can deny that this is what happened so therefore we are going with summary punishment and the officer has no remedy now to dispute this as the ability to take to a hearing board would be removed by **SB 607** as well.

The FOP would ask that **SB 607** be **AMENDED** by deleting the period after the word “dispute” at the end of Page 1, line 19, and adding “, and the officer agrees that the facts are not in dispute and accepts the discipline.” With this change, the FOP would be able to support **SB 607**.

On behalf of the more than 20,000 Courageous Men and Women of the Maryland Fraternal Order of Police we thank you for your support and ask for your **FAVORABLE** vote on **Senate Bill 607 - Police Accountability and Discipline – Summary Punishment ONLY IF it is AMENDED** as requested above.

Angelo L. Consoli Jr,
2nd Vice President, FOP, Maryland State Lodge
President, FOP Lodge 89, Prince George’s County