

HOUSE BILL 73

Unofficial Copy
E4

2000 Regular Session
0lr0782

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate Campbell**
Requested: October 28, 1999
Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2000
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Law Enforcement Officers - Political Activity - Restrictions**

3 FOR the purpose of clarifying certain political activities which law enforcement
4 officers are prohibited from engaging in under certain circumstances; providing
5 for a method of investigation of certain violations; and generally relating to
6 restrictions on the rights of law enforcement officers rights to engage in political
7 activity.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
10 Section 728(a)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

16 728.

17 (a) (1) A law enforcement officer has the same rights to engage in political
18 activity as are afforded to any State employee. [This right to engage in political
19 activity shall not apply to any law enforcement officer when he is on duty or when he
20 is acting in his official capacity.]

21 (2) (I) IN THIS PARAGRAPH, "POLITICAL ACTIVITY" INCLUDES:

- 22 1. MAKING SPEECHES AT POLITICAL EVENTS;
- 23 2. DISTRIBUTING, OR PLACING FOR DISTRIBUTION,
24 CAMPAIGN MATERIALS AT ANY LOCATION; AND
- 25 3. VIDEO OR AUDIO TAPING ENDORSEMENTS.

1 (II) A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER MAY NOT ENGAGE IN
2 POLITICAL ACTIVITY WHILE ON DUTY OR IN UNIFORM.

3 (III) A VIOLATION OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE INVESTIGATED IN
4 ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
6 October 1, 2000.