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By: **Senator Exum**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2002

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prince George's County - Police Department - Settlement Agreements**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that a settlement agreement entered into by a person,  
4 who had a claim or filed a civil action against the Prince George's County Police  
5 Department, and the Prince George's County Police Department is a matter of  
6 public record; requiring the Chief of Police of the Prince George's County Police  
7 Department to make the terms of the settlement agreement available to the  
8 public; prohibiting a court from sealing the terms of certain settlement  
9 agreements; and generally relating to settlement agreements with the Prince  
10 George's County Police Department.

11 BY adding to  
12 The Public Local Laws of Prince George's County  
13 Section 18-146.02  
14 Article 17 - Public Local Laws of Maryland  
15 (1999 Edition and 2000 Supplement, as amended)

16 BY adding to  
17 Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
18 Section 6-411  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (1998 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

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

23 **Article 17 - Prince George's County**

24 18-146.02.

25 (A) ANY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO BY A PERSON, WHO HAD A  
26 CLAIM OR FILED A CIVIL ACTION AGAINST THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY POLICE  
27 DEPARTMENT, AND THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT IS A  
28 MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD.

1 (B) THE CHIEF OF POLICE SHALL MAKE THE TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT  
2 AGREEMENT AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UNDER SUBTITLE 6 OF TITLE 10 OF THE  
3 STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

4 **Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

5 6-411.

6 A COURT MAY NOT SEAL THE TERMS OF A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IN AN  
7 ACTION AGAINST THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
9 October 1, 2002.