HOUSE BILL 670

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Police Reform and Accountability Act of 2021

FOR the purpose of repealing the Law Enforcement Officers’ Bill of Rights; providing that
the Police Department of Baltimore City is an agency and instrumentality of the City
of Baltimore, instead of the State; providing that certain police officers have the
authority conferred under a certain provision of law; altering a certain ground for
issuance of a certain search warrant; repealing a certain ground for issuance of a
certain search warrant; authorizing a judge to issue a certain “no–knock” search
warrant only under certain circumstances; providing that a warrant to search a
residence shall be executed between certain times, absent certain circumstances;
providing that an individual attending a certain institution of higher education is
exempt from paying tuition under certain circumstances; requiring an individual
who has received a certain exemption from tuition payment to pay a certain value to
a certain institution under certain circumstances; altering the membership of the
Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission; requiring the Commission to
develop and administer training programs on certain matters for citizens who intend
to qualify to participate as a member of a certain charging committee and citizens
who are appointed to serve as members of the Commission; requiring the
Commission to take certain actions in response to certain violations of a certain Use
of Force Statute; requiring the Commission to develop a test and training for implicit
bias, require certain law enforcement agencies to use the implicit bias test at a
certain time, and require certain police officers to complete implicit bias testing and
training at certain times; altering a certain requirement for police officer certification
that an individual submit to a psychological evaluation to require that an individual
submit to a mental health screening by a certain professional; adding as a
requirement for police officer certification that an individual submit to a certain
physical agility assessment; requiring a police officer, as a condition of certification,
to submit to a mental health assessment and a physical agility assessment at a
certain time for a certain purpose; establishing that prior marijuana use is not a
disqualifier for certification as a police officer and may not be the basis for

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
disqualifying an applicant for a position as police officer; requiring, at certain intervals beginning on a certain date, a law enforcement agency that maintains a SWAT team to report certain information to the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services using a certain format; requiring the Commission, in consultation with the Office, to develop a standardized format that certain law enforcement agencies shall use in reporting certain data relating to the activation and deployment of certain SWAT teams to the Office and to certain local officials; requiring a law enforcement agency to compile certain information as a report in a certain format and to submit the report to the Office no later than a certain date following the period that is the subject of the report; requiring the Office to analyze and summarize certain reports of law enforcement agencies and to submit a report of the analyses and summaries to the Governor, the General Assembly, and each law enforcement agency before a certain date each year; providing that, if a law enforcement agency fails to comply with certain reporting requirements, the Office shall report the noncompliance to the Commission; providing that the Commission shall contact a certain law enforcement agency and request that the agency comply with certain reporting requirements under certain circumstances; providing that, if a certain law enforcement agency fails to comply with certain reporting requirements within a certain period after being contacted by the Commission, the Office and the Commission jointly shall make a certain report to the Governor and the Legislative Policy Committee of the General Assembly and publish the report on its website; requiring each law enforcement agency to require the use of body–worn cameras on or before a certain date; altering a certain provision of law requiring each law enforcement agency to establish a certain early intervention policy to require a system instead of a policy, repeal the requirement that the system be confidential and nonpunitive, and alter the purpose and function of the system; requiring the Commission to develop guidelines for a certain early intervention system; requiring that a certain shooting or other incident be investigated by a certain investigative agency; requiring a law enforcement agency to notify a certain investigative agency of a certain shooting or other incident at a certain time and cooperate with the investigative agency in a certain investigation; requiring a certain investigative agency to submit a certain report to a certain State's Attorney and publicize the report at a certain time; requiring the Governor to annually include certain funding in the State budget; requiring each police officer to sign a certain pledge; providing that a police officer may only use certain force; requiring a police officer to take certain steps to gain compliance and de–escalate conflict under certain circumstances; requiring a police officer to intervene to prevent or terminate the use of certain force by a certain police officer; requiring a police officer to render certain first aid to a certain subject and request certain assistance at a certain time; requiring a police supervisor to respond to the scene of a certain incident and gather and review certain recordings; requiring a police officer to document certain incidents in a certain manner; requiring a law enforcement agency to adopt a certain policy; requiring a police officer to undergo certain training; requiring a police officer to sign a certain training completion document; providing that a police officer may only use deadly force for a certain purpose; requiring all police officers to undergo less–lethal force training and be trained and equipped with certain less–lethal weapons; prohibiting a police officer from shooting at a certain vehicle except under
certain circumstances; prohibiting a police officer from using a chokehold, neck restraint, or a certain other type of restraint; prohibiting a law enforcement agency from acquiring a certain armored or weaponized vehicle; requiring a law enforcement agency to have a written de-escalation of force policy; prohibiting a police officer from knowingly and willfully violating certain provisions of this Act; prohibiting a police officer from recklessly violating certain provisions of this Act; establishing certain penalties for a violation of certain provisions of this Act; requiring the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services to withhold grant funding from a certain law enforcement agency; establishing that a certain provision of law shall be known as the Maryland Use of Force Statute; requiring the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to submit a certain annual report to the Governor and General Assembly; requiring each law enforcement agency to establish and implement a certain police discipline process with certain requirements; requiring each law enforcement agency to post the police discipline process on the agency’s public website; requiring certain members of trial boards and administrative charging committees to receive certain training; prohibiting a law enforcement agency from negating or altering certain requirements of a certain provision of law through collective bargaining; providing for the establishment, composition, and duties of an administrative charging committee; requiring, that on completion of a certain investigation, a law enforcement agency forward the investigatory files for certain matters to an administrative charging committee; requiring that a certain allegation proceed in accordance with the policies and procedures of a certain law enforcement agency; providing that the meetings of an administrative charging committee are not subject to the requirements of the Open Meetings Act; requiring the Emergency Number Systems Board to conduct a certain study and submit a certain report; providing for the application of a certain provision of this Act; requiring a certain publisher, in consultation with and subject to the approval of the Department of Legislative Services, to correct certain cross-references and terminology and describe a certain correction in a certain manner; making conforming changes; defining certain terms; and generally relating to police reform.

BY renumbering
Article – Public Safety
Section 1–101(c) and (d) and 3–101(e), respectively
to be Section 1–101(d) and (e) and (c), respectively
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY repealing
Article – Public Safety
Section 3–101 through 3–113 and the subtitle “Subtitle 1. Law Enforcement Officers’ Bill of Rights”
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
The Public Local Laws of Baltimore City
Section 16–2(a) and 16–3
Article 4 – Public Local Laws of Maryland

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Criminal Procedure
Section 1–203(a)(2)(vi)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Criminal Procedure
Section 1–203(a)(7)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Education
Section 15–106.11
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Public Safety
Section 3–203, 3–207(g), 3–209, 3–215, 3–511, and 3–516
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Public Safety
Section 3–207(j) and (k), 3–508, and 3–523 through 3–526
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That Section(s) 1–101(c) and (d) and 3–101(e), respectively, of Article – Public Safety of the
Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 1–101(d) and (e) and (c),
respectively.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 3–101 through
3–113 and the subtitle “Subtitle 1. Law Enforcement Officers’ Bill of Rights” of Article –
Public Safety of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
as follows:
Article 4 – Baltimore City

16–2.

(a) The Police Department of Baltimore City is hereby constituted and established as an agency and instrumentality of the [State of Maryland] CITY OF BALTIMORE. The purpose generally of the department shall be to safeguard the lives and safety of all persons within the City of Baltimore, to protect property therein, and to assist in securing to all persons the equal protection of the laws. The department shall have, within the boundaries of said city, the specific duty and responsibility to preserve the public peace; to detect and prevent the commission of crime; to enforce the laws of this State, and of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore not inconsistent with the provisions of this subtitle; to apprehend and arrest criminals and persons who violate or are lawfully accused of violating such laws and ordinances; to preserve order at public places; to maintain the orderly flow of traffic on public streets and highways; to assist law enforcement agencies of this State, any municipality of the United States in carrying out their respective duties; and to discharge its duties and responsibilities with the dignity and manner which will inspire public confidence and respect.

16–3.

(a) All police officers of the department, including such other members thereof who may be designated by the Commissioner from time to time to exercise the powers and duties of police officers, shall [be peace officers and shall have the same powers, with respect to criminal matters, and the enforcement of the laws related thereto, as sheriffs, constables, police and peace officers possessed at common law and have in their respective jurisdictions. Any person charged with commission of crime in the City of Baltimore, or in those areas outside the corporate limits of Baltimore City owned, controlled, operated or leased by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, and against whom criminal process shall have issued, may be arrested upon the same in any part of the State by police officers of the department, as constituted and established by this subtitle] HAVE THE AUTHORITY CONFERRED UNDER TITLE 2 OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND.

(b) All police officers of the department shall have and enjoy all the immunities and matters of defense now available, or such as hereafter may be made available, to sheriffs, constables, police and peace officers in any suit, civil or criminal, brought against them in consequence of acts done in the course of their official duties.

Article – Criminal Procedure

1–203.

(a) (2) (vi) An application for a search warrant may contain a request that the search warrant authorize the executing law enforcement officer to enter the building, apartment, premises, place, or thing to be searched without giving notice of the officer's
authority or purpose, on the [grounds] GROUND that there is [reasonable suspicion to believe] CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE that, without the authorization[:]

1. the property subject to seizure may be destroyed, disposed of, or secreted; or

2.] the life or safety of the executing officer or another person may be endangered.

(7) A WARRANT TO SEARCH A RESIDENCE SHALL BE EXECUTED BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. AND 7:00 P.M., ABSENT EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

Article – Education

15–106.11.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) “POLICE OFFICER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 3–201 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.

(3) “TUITION” MEANS THE CHARGES IMPOSED BY AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ALL CREDIT–BEARING COURSES REQUIRED AS A CONDITION OF ENROLLMENT AT THE INSTITUTION.

(B) AN INDIVIDUAL ATTENDING A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IS EXEMPT FROM PAYING TUITION IF THE INDIVIDUAL:

(1) IS ENROLLED IN A 4–YEAR DEGREE PROGRAM IN CRIMINAL LAW, CRIMINOLOGY, OR CRIMINAL JUSTICE;

(2) IS ELIGIBLE FOR IN–STATE TUITION; AND

(3) INTENDS TO BECOME A POLICE OFFICER AFTER GRADUATION.

(C) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS RECEIVED AN EXEMPTION FROM TUITION PAYMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL PAY TO THE INSTITUTION THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE TUITION EXEMPTION RECEIVED IF THE INDIVIDUAL FAILS TO:

(1) EARN A 4–YEAR DEGREE IN CRIMINAL LAW, CRIMINOLOGY, OR CRIMINAL JUSTICE WITHIN 7 YEARS AFTER STARTING THE PROGRAM; AND
(2) Work as a police officer for at least 5 years during the 8-year period after graduation.

(D) The Maryland Higher Education Commission shall adopt regulations to implement this section.

Article - Public Safety

3–203.

(a) The Commission consists of the following members:

(1) the President of the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association;
(2) the President of the Maryland Sheriffs Association;
(3) the Attorney General of the State;
(4) the Secretary of State Police;
(5) the agent in charge of the Baltimore office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
(6) one member representing the Maryland State Lodge of Fraternal Order of Police;
(7) one member representing the Maryland State’s Attorneys’ Association;
(8) [the Chair of the Maryland Municipal League Police Executive Association;
(9) the President of Maryland Law Enforcement Officers, Inc.;
(10) the Police Commissioner of Baltimore City;
(11) the President of the Police Chiefs’ Association of Prince George’s County;
(12) a representative from the Wor–Wic Program Advisory Committee – Criminal Justice;
(13) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;
(14) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;] and
the following individuals, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate:

(i) [three police officers, representing different geographic areas of the State;]

(ii) one individual with expertise in community policing;

[(iii) (II) one individual with expertise in policing standards;

(iv) (III) one individual with expertise in mental health WITHOUT RELATIONSHIPS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT; and

[v] (IV) two NINE citizens of the State without relationships to law enforcement.

(b) (1) The term of an appointed member is 3 years.

(2) The terms of the appointed members are staggered as required by the terms provided for members of the Commission on October 1, 2016.

(3) At the end of a term, an appointed member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

(4) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the remainder of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

c) Except for the appointed members, a member of the Commission may serve personally at a Commission meeting or may designate a representative from the member’s unit, agency, or association who may act at any meeting to the same effect as if the member were personally present.

[(d) The members of the Commission appointed from the Senate of Maryland and the House of Delegates shall serve in an advisory capacity only.]

3–207.

(g) The Commission shall develop and administer:

(1) a training program on [the Law Enforcement Officers’ Bill of Rights and] matters relating to police procedures for citizens who intend to qualify to participate as a member of a [hearing board under § 3–107 of this title] TRIAL BOARD OR CHARGING COMMITTEE UNDER § 3–525 OF THIS TITLE; AND

(2) A TRAINING PROGRAM ON MATTERS RELATING TO POLICE
TRAINING AND STANDARDS FOR CITIZENS WHO ARE APPOINTED TO SERVE AS MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

(J) THE COMMISSION SHALL:

(1) HOLD LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ACCOUNTABLE FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE USE OF FORCE STATUTE UNDER § 3–524 OF THIS TITLE; AND

(II) WORK WITH THE COMPTROLLER AND THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES TO ENSURE THAT STATE GRANT FUNDING IS WITHHELD FROM A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT VIOLATES THE USE OF FORCE STATUTE UNDER § 3–524 OF THIS TITLE;

(2) REVOKE THE CERTIFICATION OF A POLICE OFFICER WHO HAS BEEN:

(I) FOUND TO HAVE VIOLATED THE USE OF FORCE STATUTE UNDER § 3–524 OF THIS TITLE;

(II) CONVICTED OF A FELONY;

(III) CONVICTED OF PERJURY OR ANOTHER MISDEMEANOR RELATING TO TRUTHFULNESS AND VERACITY; OR

(IV) PREVIOUSLY FIRED OR RESIGNED WHILE BEING INVESTIGATED FOR SERIOUS MISCONDUCT OR USE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE; AND

(3) CREATE A STATEWIDE DATABASE TO TRACK POLICE OFFICER DE–CERTIFICATIONS DUE TO IMPROPER USE OF FORCE.

(K) THE COMMISSION SHALL:

(1) DEVELOP A TEST AND TRAINING FOR IMPPLICIT BIAS;

(2) REQUIRE ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO USE THE IMPLICIT BIAS TEST IN THE HIRING PROCESS;

(3) REQUIRE ALL NEW POLICE OFFICERS TO COMPLETE IMPLICIT BIAS TESTING AND TRAINING; AND

(4) REQUIRE ALL INCUMBENT POLICE OFFICERS TO UNDERGO IMPLICIT BIAS TESTING AND TRAINING ON AN ANNUAL BASIS.
1 3–209.

2 (a) The Commission shall certify as a police officer each individual who:

3    (1) (i) satisfactorily meets the standards of the Commission; or

4    (ii) provides the Commission with sufficient evidence that the
5    individual has satisfactorily completed a training program in another state of equal quality
6    and content as required by the Commission;

7    (2) submits to a [psychological evaluation] MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING
8 BY A LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL;

9    (3) SUBMITS TO A PHYSICAL AGILITY ASSESSMENT AS DETERMINED
10   BY THE COMMISSION;

11 [3] (4) submits to a criminal history records check in accordance with §
12 3–209.1 of this subtitle; and

13 [4] (5) (i) is a United States citizen; or

14    (ii) subject to subsection (b) of this section, is a permanent legal
15 resident of the United States and an honorably discharged veteran of the United States
16 armed forces, provided that the individual has applied to obtain United States citizenship
17 and the application is still pending approval.

18 (b) The certification of a police officer who fails to obtain United States citizenship
19 as required by subsection (a)(4)(ii) of this section shall be terminated by the Commission.

20 (c) The Commission may certify as a police officer an individual who is not
21 considered a police officer under § 3–201(f)(3) of this subtitle if the individual meets the
22 selection and training standards of the Commission.

23 (d) Each certificate issued to a police officer under this subtitle remains the
24 property of the Commission.

25 (E) AS A CONDITION OF CERTIFICATION, A POLICE OFFICER SHALL
26 ANNUALLY SUBMIT TO A MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND A PHYSICAL AGILITY
27 ASSESSMENT TO ESTABLISH CONTINUING FITNESS TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF A
28 POLICE OFFICER.

29 (F) PRIOR MARIJUANA USE IS NOT A DISQUALIFIER FOR CERTIFICATION AS
30 A POLICE OFFICER.

31 3–215.
(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Permanent appointment” means the appointment of an individual who has satisfactorily met the minimum standards of the Commission and is certified as a police officer.

(3) “Police administrator” means a police officer who has been promoted to first-line administrative duties up to but not exceeding the rank of captain.

(4) “Police supervisor” means a police officer who has been promoted to first-line supervisory duties.

(b) An individual may not be given or accept a probationary appointment or permanent appointment as a police officer, police supervisor, or police administrator unless the individual satisfactorily meets the qualifications established by the Commission.

(c) A probationary appointment as a police officer, police supervisor, or police administrator may be made for a period not exceeding 1 year to enable the individual seeking permanent appointment to take a training course required by this subtitle.

(d) A probationary appointee is entitled to a leave of absence with pay during the period of the training program.

(E) PRIOR MARIJUANA USE MAY NOT BE THE BASIS FOR DISQUALIFYING AN APPLICANT FOR A POSITION AS A POLICE OFFICER.

3–508.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) “COMMISSION” MEANS THE MARYLAND POLICE TRAINING AND STANDARDS COMMISSION.

(3) “LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 3–201 OF THIS TITLE.

(4) “OFFICE” MEANS THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES.

(5) “POLICE OFFICER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 3–201 OF THIS TITLE.

(6) “SWAT TEAM” MEANS A SPECIAL UNIT COMPOSED OF TWO OR MORE POLICE OFFICERS WITHIN A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY TRAINED TO DEAL
WITH UNUSUALLY DANGEROUS OR VIOLENT SITUATIONS AND HAVING SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AND WEAPONS, INCLUDING RIFLES MORE POWERFUL THAN THOSE CARRIED BY REGULAR POLICE OFFICERS.

(B) EVERY 6 MONTHS, BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022, A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT MAINTAINS A SWAT TEAM SHALL REPORT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO THE OFFICE USING THE FORMAT DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION:

(1) THE NUMBER OF TIMES THE SWAT TEAM WAS ACTIVATED AND DEPLOYED BY THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN THE PREVIOUS 6 MONTHS;

(2) THE NAME OF THE COUNTY OR COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AND THE ZIP CODE OF THE LOCATION WHERE THE SWAT TEAM WAS DEPLOYED FOR EACH ACTIVATION;

(3) THE REASON FOR EACH ACTIVATION AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE SWAT TEAM;

(4) THE LEGAL AUTHORITY, INCLUDING TYPE OF WARRANT, IF ANY, FOR EACH ACTIVATION AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE SWAT TEAM; AND

(5) THE RESULT OF EACH ACTIVATION AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE SWAT TEAM, INCLUDING:

(I) THE NUMBER OF ARRESTS MADE, IF ANY;

(II) WHETHER PROPERTY WAS SEIZED;

(III) WHETHER A FORCIBLE ENTRY WAS MADE;

(IV) WHETHER A WEAPON WAS DISCHARGED BY A SWAT TEAM MEMBER; AND

(V) WHETHER A PERSON OR DOMESTIC ANIMAL WAS INJURED OR KILLED BY A SWAT TEAM MEMBER.

(C) THE COMMISSION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICE, SHALL DEVELOP A STANDARDIZED FORMAT THAT EACH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL USE IN REPORTING DATA TO THE OFFICE UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

(D) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL:
(1) Compile the data described in subsection (B) of this section for each 6-month period as a report in the format required under subsection (C) of this section; and

(2) Not later than the 15th day of the month following the 6-month period that is the subject of the report, submit the report to:

(I) the Office; and

(II) 1. the local governing body of the jurisdiction served by the law enforcement agency that employs the SWAT team that is the subject of the report; or

2. if the jurisdiction served by the law enforcement agency that employs the SWAT team that is the subject of the report is a municipal corporation, the chief executive officer of the jurisdiction.

(E) (1) the Office shall analyze and summarize the reports of law enforcement agencies submitted under subsection (D) of this section.

(2) before September 1 each year, the Office shall:

(I) submit a report of the analyses and summaries of the reports of law enforcement agencies described in paragraph (I) of this subsection to the governor, the general assembly as provided in § 2–1257 of the state government article, and each law enforcement agency; and

(II) publish the report on its website.

(F) (1) if a law enforcement agency fails to comply with the reporting provisions of this section, the Office shall report the noncompliance to the commission.

(2) on receipt of a report of noncompliance, the commission shall contact the law enforcement agency and request that the agency comply with the required reporting provisions.

(3) if the law enforcement agency fails to comply with the required reporting provisions of this section within 30 days after being
CONTACTED BY THE COMMISSION WITH A REQUEST TO COMPLY, THE OFFICE AND
THE COMMISSION JOINTLY SHALL REPORT THE NONCOMPLIANCE TO THE
GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY.

3–511.

(A) On or before January 1, 2016, the Maryland Police Training and Standards
Commission shall develop and publish online a policy for the issuance and use of a
body–worn camera by a law enforcement officer that addresses:

(1) the testing of body–worn cameras to ensure adequate functioning;
(2) the procedure for the law enforcement officer to follow if the camera
fails to properly operate at the beginning of or during the law enforcement officer’s shift;
(3) when recording is mandatory;
(4) when recording is prohibited;
(5) when recording is discretionary;
(6) when recording may require consent of a subject being recorded;
(7) when a recording may be ended;
(8) providing notice of recording;
(9) access to and confidentiality of recordings;
(10) the secure storage of data from a body–worn camera;
(11) review and use of recordings;
(12) retention of recordings;
(13) dissemination and release of recordings;
(14) consequences for violations of the agency’s body–worn camera policy;
(15) notification requirements when another individual becomes a party to
the communication following the initial notification;
(16) specific protections for individuals when there is an expectation of
privacy in private or public places; and
(17) any additional issues determined to be relevant in the implementation and use of body–worn cameras by law enforcement officers.

(B) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2025, EACH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL REQUIRE THE USE OF BODY–WORN CAMERAS.

3–516.

(a) Each law enforcement agency shall establish a [confidential and nonpunitive] DATA–BASED early intervention [policy for counseling officers who receive three or more citizen complaints within a 12–month period] SYSTEM, BASED ON GUIDELINES DEVELOPED BY THE COMMISSION, TO IDENTIFY POLICE OFFICERS WHO ARE AT RISK FOR ENGAGING IN THE USE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE AND TO PROVIDE ALL OFFICERS WHO ARE IDENTIFIED WITH RETRAINING AND BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS, REASSIGNMENTS, OR OTHER APPROPRIATE RESPONSES TO REDUCE THE RISK OF THE USE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE.

(b) The Commission shall develop guidelines for an early intervention system required under subsection (a) of this section.

(C) A policy described in this section may not prevent the investigation of or imposition of discipline for any particular complaint.

3–523.

(A) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE AGENCY” MEANS AN INDEPENDENT UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT THAT MAY EMPLOY SWORN POLICE OFFICERS AND CIVILIANS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATING USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS INVOLVING POLICE OFFICERS.

(3) “LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 3–201 OF THIS TITLE.

(4) “POLICE OFFICER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 3–201 OF THIS TITLE.

(5) “SERIOUS INJURY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 3–201 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE.

(B) A SHOOTING INVOLVING A POLICE OFFICER OR OTHER INCIDENT INVOLVING THE USE OF PHYSICAL FORCE BY A POLICE OFFICER CAUSING DEATH OR
SERIOUS INJURY SHALL BE INVESTIGATED BY THE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE AGENCY.

(C) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL:

(1) NOTIFY THE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE AGENCY OF ANY ALLEGED OR POTENTIAL SHOOTING INVOLVING A POLICE OFFICER OR OTHER INCIDENT INVOLVING THE USE OF PHYSICAL FORCE BY A POLICE OFFICER CAUSING DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY AS SOON AS THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY BECOMES AWARE OF THE INCIDENT; AND

(2) COOPERATE WITH THE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE AGENCY IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT.

(D) (1) ON COMPLETION OF AN INVESTIGATION UNDER THIS SECTION, THE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE AGENCY SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT CONTAINING THE FINDINGS OF THE INVESTIGATION TO THE STATE’S ATTORNEY WITH JURISDICTION OVER THE MATTER.

(2) AFTER THE STATE’S ATTORNEY MAKES A DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO PROSECUTE, THE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE AGENCY SHALL PUBLICIZE THE REPORT.

(E) THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL INCLUDE FUNDING IN THE STATE BUDGET SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE FOR THE FULL AND PROPER OPERATION OF THE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE AGENCY.

3–524.

(A) THIS SECTION SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE MARYLAND USE OF FORCE STATUTE.

(B) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) “DEADLY FORCE” MEANS ANY FORCE THAT IS LIKELY TO CAUSE DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY.

(3) “LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 3–201 OF THIS TITLE.

(4) “LESS–LETHAL WEAPON” MEANS A WEAPON THAT IS EXPECTED TO CREATE LESS RISK OF CAUSING SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.
“Police officer” has the meaning stated in § 3–201 of this title.

“Serious injury” means permanent impairment or disfigurement.

(C) 1. Each police officer shall sign an affirmative written sanctity of life pledge to respect every human life and act with compassion toward others.

2. A police officer may only use the force that is objectively reasonable and appears to be necessary under the circumstances in response to the threat or resistance by another person.

3. A police officer shall:
   (I) When time, circumstances, and safety allow, take steps to gain compliance and de-escalate conflict without using physical force;
   (II) Intervene to prevent or terminate the use of force by another police officer beyond what is objectively reasonable under the circumstances;
   (III) Render basic first aid to a person injured as a result of police action and promptly request medical assistance; and
   (IV) Fully document all use of force incidents that the officer observed or was involved in.

4. A police supervisor shall:
   (I) Respond to the scene of any incident during which a police officer used physical force and caused physical injury; and
   (II) Gather and review all known video recordings of a use of force incident.

5. A law enforcement agency shall:
   (I) Have a written de-escalation of force policy; and
(II) ADOPT A WRITTEN POLICY REQUIRING SUPERVISORY AND COMMAND–LEVEL REVIEW OF ALL USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS.

(6) A POLICE OFFICER SHALL:

(I) UNDERGO TRAINING ON ENFORCEMENT OPTIONS THAT ARE LESS LIKELY TO CAUSE DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY, INCLUDING SCENARIO–BASED TRAINING; AND

(II) SIGN A TRAINING COMPLETION DOCUMENT STATING THAT THE OFFICER UNDERSTANDS AND SHALL COMPLY WITH THE MARYLAND USE OF FORCE STATUTE.

(7) A POLICE OFFICER MAY ONLY USE DEADLY FORCE TO STOP AN IMMINENT THREAT OF DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY TO THE OFFICER OR ANOTHER PERSON.

(8) ALL POLICE OFFICERS SHALL:

(I) UNDERGO LESS–LETHAL FORCE TRAINING; AND

(II) BE TRAINED AND EQUIPPED WITH LESS–LETHAL WEAPONS THAT MAY ASSIST THE OFFICER IN CONTROLLING RESISTANT OR ASSAULTIVE BEHAVIOR.

(9) A POLICE OFFICER MAY NOT:

(I) DISCHARGE A FIREARM AT A MOVING VEHICLE UNLESS:

1. THE VEHICLE IS BEING USED AS A DEADLY WEAPON TOWARD THE OFFICER OR ANOTHER PERSON; AND

2. DEADLY FORCE IS THE ONLY REASONABLE MEANS AVAILABLE TO STOP THE THREAT; OR

(II) USE A CHOKEHOLD, NECK RESTRAINT, OR ANY OTHER TYPE OF RESTRAINT THAT RESTRICTS BLOOD FLOW OR BREATH ON ANOTHER PERSON.

(10) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY NOT ACQUIRE A SURPLUS ARMORED OR WEAPONIZED VEHICLE.

(D) (1) A POLICE OFFICER MAY NOT KNOWINGLY AND WILLFULLY
VIOLATE SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.

(2) A POLICE OFFICER WHO KNOWINGLY AND WILLFULLY VIOLATES SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 10 YEARS.

(E) (1) A POLICE OFFICER MAY NOT RECKLESSLY VIOLATE SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.

(2) A POLICE OFFICER WHO RECKLESSLY VIOLATES SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 5 YEARS.

(F) THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES SHALL WITHHOLD GRANT FUNDS FROM A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY WHO VIOLATES SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.

(G) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH, THE MARYLAND POLICE TRAINING AND STANDARDS COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2–1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THAT:

(1) LISTS THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES THAT VIOLATED SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION DURING THE PRECEDING 1–YEAR PERIOD; AND

(2) DESCRIBES THE NATURE OF EACH VIOLATION.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Public Safety

3–525.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) “LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 3–201 OF THIS TITLE.

(3) “POLICE OFFICER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 3–201 OF THIS TITLE.

(B) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, EACH LAW
ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A DISCIPLINE PROCESS THAT:

(1) IS OPEN AND TRANSPARENT;

(2) INCLUDES AN ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGING COMMITTEE AS SPECIFIED IN § 3–201 OF THIS TITLE;

(3) INCLUDES THE USE OF A TRIAL BOARD THAT INCLUDES AT LEAST ONE–THIRD MEMBERSHIP BY CIVILIANS WITH VOTING POWER;

(4) BEFORE DISCIPLINARY ACTION IS TAKEN AGAINST A POLICE OFFICER, PROVIDES THE RIGHT TO A TRIAL BOARD FOR THE POLICE OFFICER;

(5) PROHIBITS THE USE OF A TRIAL BOARD FOR THE DISCIPLINE OF A POLICE OFFICER WHO HAS RECEIVED A CONVICTION OR PROBATION BEFORE JUDGMENT FOR A CRIME; AND

(6) REQUIRES THE CHIEF OF THE AGENCY TO DETERMINE DISCIPLINE FOR A POLICE OFFICER WHO HAS RECEIVED A CONVICTION OR PROBATION BEFORE JUDGMENT FOR A CRIME.

(C) EACH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL POST THE POLICE DISCIPLINE PROCESS ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION ON THE AGENCY’S PUBLIC WEBSITE.

(D) CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF EACH TRIAL BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGING COMMITTEE SHALL RECEIVE TRAINING ADMINISTERED BY THE MARYLAND POLICE TRAINING AND STANDARDS COMMISSION ON MATTERS RELATING TO POLICE PROCEDURES.

(E) EACH COUNTY SHALL HAVE AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY THAT INVESTIGATES AND REVIEWS COMPLAINTS OF POLICE MISCONDUCT FILED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

(F) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY NOT NEGATE OR ALTER ANY OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION THROUGH COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

3–526.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.
(2) “ADMINISTRATIVELY CHARGED” MEANS THAT A POLICE OFFICER HAS BEEN FORMALLY ACCUSED OF MISCONDUCT IN AN ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING.

(3) “EXONERATED” MEANS THAT A POLICE OFFICER ACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW AND AGENCY POLICY.

(4) “LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 3–201 OF THIS TITLE.

(5) “NOT ADMINISTRATIVELY CHARGED” MEANS THAT A DETERMINATION HAS BEEN MADE NOT TO ADMINISTRATIVELY CHARGE A POLICE OFFICER IN CONNECTION WITH ALLEGED MISCONDUCT.

(6) “POLICE OFFICER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 3–201 OF THIS TITLE.

(7) “SUPERIOR GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY” MEANS THE GOVERNING BODY THAT OVERSEES A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

(8) “UNFOUNDED” MEANS THAT THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST A POLICE OFFICER ARE NOT SUPPORTED BY FACT.

(B) (1) AN ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGING COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF:

(I) THE DIRECTOR OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT EMPLOYS THE OFFICER WHO IS SUBJECT TO INVESTIGATION, OR THE DIRECTOR’S DESIGNEE;

(II) THE HEAD ATTORNEY FOR THE SUPERIOR GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT EMPLOYS THE OFFICER OR THE HEAD ATTORNEY’S DESIGNEE, IF THE DESIGNEE IS A MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND BAR;

(III) A DESIGNEE OF THE DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND BAR;

(IV) A DESIGNEE OF THE STATE’S ATTORNEY FOR THE JURISDICTION WHERE THE ALLEGED MISCONDUCT OCCURRED WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND BAR; AND

(V) ONE CIVILIAN REPRESENTATIVE SELECTED BY THE POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD FOR THE JURISDICTION WHERE THE ALLEGED
MISCONDUCT OCCURRED.

(2) The head attorney for the superior governmental authority or the head attorney’s designee shall serve as the chair of an administrative charging committee.

(c) (1) On completion of an investigation of a complaint against a police officer, the law enforcement agency shall forward to an administrative charging committee the investigatory files for all matters involving:

   (i) allegations of misconduct made by a member of the public; and

   (ii) any allegation relating to dishonesty, the violation of a criminal statute, sexual harassment, or racial harassment.

(2) An allegation not specified under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall proceed in accordance with the policies and procedures of the law enforcement agency.

(d) An administrative charging committee shall:

   (1) review the findings of a law enforcement agency’s investigation conducted and forwarded in accordance with subsection (C) of this section;

   (2) make a determination that the police officer who is subject to investigation shall be:

      (i) administratively charged; or

      (ii) not administratively charged;

   (3) if the police officer is charged, recommend discipline in accordance with the law enforcement agency’s disciplinary matrix;

   (4) issue a written opinion that describes in detail its findings, determinations, and recommendations; and

   (5) forward the written opinion to the chief of the law enforcement agency.
(E) In executing its duties in accordance with subsection (D) of this section, an administrative charging committee may:

(1) Request information or action from the law enforcement agency that conducted the investigation, including requiring additional investigation and the issuance of subpoenas; and

(2) If the police officer is not charged, make a determination that:

(i) The allegations against the police officer are unfounded; or

(ii) The police officer is exonerated.

(F) Notwithstanding Title 3 of the General Provisions Article, the meetings of an administrative charging committee are not subject to the requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That on or before December 31, 2021, the Emergency Number Systems Board shall study and report to the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, regarding whether certain types of calls for 9–1–1 service should be diverted to a person or entity other than law enforcement agencies.

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 4 of this Act shall be construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or application to:

(1) any bona fide collective bargaining agreement entered into on or before September 30, 2021, for the duration of the contract term, excluding any extensions, options to extend, or renewals of the term of the original contract; or

(2) a disciplinary matter against a law enforcement officer based on alleged misconduct occurring before the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the publishers of the Annotated Code of Maryland, in consultation with and subject to the approval of the Department of Legislative Services, shall correct, with no further action required by the General Assembly, cross-references and terminology rendered incorrect by this Act. Cross-references to the term “law enforcement officer” as formerly stated under § 3–101(e) of the Public Safety Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland shall be redesignated as cross-references to the term “law enforcement officer” as stated under § 1–101(c) of the Public Safety Article. The publishers shall adequately describe any such correction in an
editor’s note following the section affected.

SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021.