

HOUSE BILL 1415

E4

6lr2880

By: **Delegate Moreno**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers – Identification**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to
4 develop a certain model policy requiring the use of worn identification by a law
5 enforcement officer in the course of duty; requiring a law enforcement agency to
6 adopt a policy consistent with the model policy developed by the Commission;
7 requiring a certain law enforcement officer to wear identification while in the
8 performance of duty in the State, with a certain exception; and generally relating to
9 identification by law enforcement officers.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Public Safety
12 Section 3–201(a) and (b)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 BY adding to
16 Article – Public Safety
17 Section 3–207(p) and 3–535
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Public Safety**

23 3–201.

24 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) "Commission" means the Maryland Police Training and Standards
2 Commission.

3 3-207.

4 (P) (1) (I) IN THIS SUBSECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE
5 MEANINGS INDICATED.

6 (II) "IDENTIFICATION" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 3-535
7 OF THIS TITLE.

8 (III) "LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY" HAS THE MEANING STATED
9 IN § 3-535 OF THIS TITLE.

10 (IV) "LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER" HAS THE MEANING STATED
11 IN § 3-535 OF THIS TITLE.

12 (2) (I) THE COMMISSION SHALL DEVELOP A MODEL POLICY
13 REQUIRING THE USE OF IDENTIFICATION BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER IN THE
14 COURSE OF DUTY CONSISTENT WITH § 3-535 OF THIS TITLE.

15 (II) THE MODEL POLICY DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION
16 SHALL INCLUDE LANGUAGE AFFIRMING THE STATE'S INTEREST IN:

- 17 1. PROMOTING PUBLIC SAFETY;
- 18 2. PREVENTING LAW ENFORCEMENT IMPERSONATION;
- 19 AND
- 20 3. PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

21 (III) THE MODEL POLICY DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION
22 SHALL ADDRESS:

23 1. THE SIZE, PLACEMENT, CONTRAST, AND LEGIBILITY
24 OF IDENTIFICATION, INCLUDING REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE VISIBILITY OF THE
25 IDENTIFICATION FROM A REASONABLE DISTANCE;

26 2. THE WAY IDENTIFICATION MUST BE DISPLAYED ON
27 DIFFERENT TYPES OF UNIFORMS, OUTERWEAR, AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING,
28 INCLUDING JACKETS, VESTS, AND RAIN GEAR;

29 3. IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
30 PLAINCLOTHES OR NONUNIFORMED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHEN

1 EXERCISING OR PURPORTING TO EXERCISE LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY IN THE
2 STATE, INCLUDING THE USE OF REMOVABLE OR TEMPORARY IDENTIFICATION THAT
3 CAN PROMPTLY BE DISPLAYED;

4 4. NARROWLY TAILORED CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH
5 IDENTIFICATION MAY BE TEMPORARILY OBSCURED DUE TO AN IMMEDIATE THREAT
6 TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SAFETY OR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ANY
7 DOCUMENTATION OR AFTER-ACTION REPORTING REQUIRED FOR DEVIATIONS; AND

8 5. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW AND CURRENT
9 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ON THE IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
10 ESTABLISHED UNDER § 3-535 OF THIS TITLE.

11 (3) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT
12 OFFICERS OPERATING IN THE STATE SHALL ADOPT A POLICY CONSISTENT WITH THE
13 MODEL POLICY DEVELOPED BY THE COMMISSION UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS
14 SUBSECTION.

15 3-535.

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

18 (2) "IDENTIFICATION" MEANS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S
19 AGENCY OR DEPARTMENT, LAST NAME, AND A BADGE NUMBER OR OTHER
20 IDENTIFICATION NUMBER.

21 (3) "LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY" INCLUDES A LAW ENFORCEMENT
22 AGENCY OF:

23 (I) THE STATE;

24 (II) ANOTHER STATE;

25 (III) A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE OR ANOTHER
26 STATE; AND

27 (IV) THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

28 (4) "LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER" MEANS:

1 **(I) A MEMBER OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY WHO IS**
2 **AUTHORIZED, OR PURPORTS TO BE AUTHORIZED, TO EXERCISE LAW ENFORCEMENT**
3 **AUTHORITY IN THE STATE; OR**

4 **(II) A CONTRACTOR WORKING FOR A LAW ENFORCEMENT**
5 **AGENCY WHO IS AUTHORIZED, OR PURPORTS TO BE AUTHORIZED, TO EXERCISE LAW**
6 **ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY IN THE STATE.**

7 **(B) (1) A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SHALL WEAR IDENTIFICATION ON**
8 **THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S MOST OUTER LAYER OF CLOTHING WHILE IN**
9 **THE PERFORMANCE OF DUTY IN THE STATE.**

10 **(2) ON REQUEST OF ANOTHER, A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SHALL**
11 **VERBALLY DISCLOSE IDENTIFICATION WHILE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF DUTY IN**
12 **THE STATE.**

13 **(C) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**
14 **ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN AN UNDERCOVER OPERATION.**

15 **(D) (1) A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER WHO KNOWINGLY AND**
16 **WILLFULLY VIOLATES THIS SECTION:**

17 **(I) IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS**
18 **SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 2 YEARS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING**
19 **\$2,000 OR BOTH; AND**

20 **(II) WAIVES ALL IMMUNITY IN A CIVIL ACTION FOR DAMAGES**
21 **BASED ON THE VIOLATION.**

22 **(2) A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION CONSTITUTES POLICE**
23 **MISCONDUCT FOR PURPOSES OF SUBTITLE 1 OF THIS TITLE.**

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 2026.