

MELISSA WELLS
Legislative District 40
Baltimore City

Environment and Transportation Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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HB 1555- Baltimore City – Members of the Command Staff of the Police Department – Residency Requirements

Appropriations Committee

Position: Favorable

Madam Chair, and members of the Committee

For the record, my name is Delegate Melissa Wells and I am asking for the Delegation support on HB1555.

While members of the Baltimore City Police Department continue to perform difficult tasks and have continued to be a crucial part of the community, a concern that arises is that members of the Department are not completely knowledgeable of the communities they serve. Without living within the boundaries of their place of work, these members have not become fully active members within the community.

HB1555 will authorize the Mayor and the City Council of Baltimore to require a certain at-will supervisory member of the Police Department of Baltimore City to reside within the State, Baltimore City, or within a certain distance from either the City or the State as a condition of employment. These at-will members will include the head of a unit of the Department, or one who reports directly to the head of a unit of the department. These members include both civilian employees and police officers.

If enacted, these stipulations would not affect any individual employed by the Baltimore Police Department of Baltimore City before the effective date of the local law, ordinance, or policy.

I ask that you give HB1555 a favorable report in the hope to build trust among the supervisory members of the Baltimore City Police Department and the community.

Delegate Melissa Wells