

JACK BAILEY
Legislative District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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Senate Bill 321 – Policing Authority - Comptroller's Office and Alcohol and Tobacco Commission

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 321 – Policing Authority - Comptroller's Office and Alcohol and Tobacco Commission.

In the 2019 Legislative Session, the General Assembly established the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission. As part of this legislation, officers of the Field Enforcement Division in the Comptroller's Office who are responsible for enforcing Maryland's alcohol and tobacco laws will be transferred to the new Alcohol and Tobacco Commission. However, these officers do not have full policing authority.

Both military officials and scholars say cigarette smuggling has provided significant funding from the United States towards Al-Qaeda and terrorism operations around the world. I would be more than interested in sharing many examples of money laundering cases where this has occurred right here in Maryland.

Senate Bill 321 gives these officers of the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission full policing powers under Maryland law. The bill classifies them as police officers and law enforcement officers who are subject to the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights and eligible for certification by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC).

This bill will ensure that Maryland is able to fully enforce its alcohol and tobacco laws after the authority over these laws is transferred to the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission. I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 321. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey
District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties