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State Law Enforcement Officers Labor Alliance

February 11, 2020

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr. Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee 2 East Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 321 - Policing Authority - Comptroller's Office and Alcohol and Tobacco Commission

Dear Chairman Smith:

Good afternoon Chairman and members of the committee. I am Jimmy Dulay, a First Sergeant with the Maryland State Police, and the President of the State Law Enforcement Officers Labor Alliance (SLEOLA) which is the exclusive representative for approximately 1,800 active law enforcement officers.

I am here to testify in support of SB 321. SB 321 is important legislation that follows-up on the transfer of represented agents of the Comptroller's Field Enforcement Division to the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission. With the creation of the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission (ATC) it was ensured that our members of the former Field Enforcement Division would be transferred without any loss of pay, benefits, and working conditions.

SB 321 would ensure our represented membership has the proper authority and protections in place to perform their duties as sworn law enforcement officers. SB 321 grants employees of the Division of the Office of the Executive Director of the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission who are authorized to make arrests the powers of police and peace officers and classifies them as police officers and law enforcement officers (1) subject to the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights (LEOBR) and (2) eligible for certification by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC). The bill also replaces the Field Enforcement Division of the Comptroller's Office with the Public Safety Bureau and makes conforming changes.

I would like to thank the sponsors of this bill, and would ask the committee for favorable support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Dulay President

cc: Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

SenatorBailey_FAV_SB321Uploaded by: Senator Bailey, Senator Bailey

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

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February 11, 2020

<u>Senate Bill 321 – Policing Authority - Comptroller's Office and Alcohol and Tobacco</u> 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,

Senator Jack Bailey

District 29

Calvert and St. Mary's Counties