

State of Maryland

Commission on Civil Rights

"Our vision is to have a State that is free from any trace of unlawful discrimination."



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February 11, 2020

House Bill 541 - Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission - Training Requirements - Hate Crimes Position: Support

Dear Chairperson Clippinger, Vice Chairperson Atterbeary, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights ("MCCR"; "The Commission") is the State agency responsible for the enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and state contracts based upon race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, and physical and mental disability.

House Bill 541 requires the Maryland Policy Training and Standards Commission to require entrance-level and in-service police training conducted by the State and each county and municipal police training school to include in their curriculum training related to the criminal laws concerning the recognition of, reporting of, and response to hate crimes.

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights believes that this bill will be an important tool in ensuring that each law enforcement unit throughout the State is receiving current, uniform information needed to support their work in enforcing Maryland's hate crimes laws.

In closing, MCCR urges the committee to vote favorably on HB541. The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights looks forward to the continued opportunity to work with you to improve and promote civil rights in Maryland.