



FACSIMILE NO.

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO.

March 3, 2020

To: The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, House Judiciary Committee

From: The Office of the Attorney General

Re: HB1144 - Public Safety - Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission -
Procedures and Training (SUPPORT)

Discriminatory profiling by police is inconsistent with the State's commitment to equal justice. In August of 2015, the Office of the Attorney General issued a guidance memorandum aimed at ending discriminatory profiling by state and local law enforcement agencies. The guidance advised that, consistent with state and federal constitutional law, local law enforcement may not consider race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability when conducting routine police activity.¹ House Bill 1144 advances this guidance by, among other things, requiring that the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission ensure that training on discriminatory profiling is offered at least once every 3 years for in-service level police training conducted by the State and each county and municipal police training school. The bill also makes clear that the Commission may suspend or revoke a certification (instead of recalling a certificate) if the police officer has been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor for which a sentence of imprisonment exceeding 1 year may be imposed—authority that is critical to protecting the safety of our communities and strengthening their relationship with law enforcement.

The Office of the Attorney General commends and supports these efforts and, therefore, urges a favorable report on HB 1144.

¹ See Maryland Office of the Attorney General Guidance Memorandum, "Ending Discriminatory Profiling in Maryland," (Aug. 2015) available online at http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Reports/Ending_Discriminatory_Profiling.pdf.