



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

March 3, 2020

Committee: House Judiciary

Bill: HB 1221- Public Information Act – Personnel and Investigatory Records –
Complaints Against Law Enforcement Officers

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports HB 1221, which seeks to enhance law enforcement transparency and accountability by providing access to personnel and investigative records relating to complaints involving the discharge of a firearm, use of force resulting in serious bodily injury, and sustained investigatory findings of complaints involving an officer's integrity.

The League believes this legislation represents a reasonable, balanced approach to releasing certain documents that have long been withheld in order to improve government transparency in the most serious and sensitive cases. It does so by allowing for the release of specified records unless it would interfere with a valid and proper law enforcement proceeding, deprive another person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, disclose the identity of a confidential source, disclose an investigative technique or procedure, prejudice an investigation, or endanger the life or physical safety of an individual.

For these reasons, the League supports HB 1221 and respectfully requests that the committee report the bill favorably as introduced.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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