

Placeholder.pdf

Uploaded by: Britt, Adiena

Position: FAV

Placeholder for written testimony

Stance:

Testimony: My name is Adiena C. Britt and I reside in the 45th Legislative District of Baltimore City. I am writing to offer my

Thank you.

Adiena C. Britt

6014 Old Harford Rd.

Baltimore, MD 21214

Sydnor Testimony Fav SB0588 Misconduct Database.

Uploaded by: Clark, Eugene

Position: FAV



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony for SB 588
Law Enforcement Officers – Credibility of Witnesses
And Misconduct Database
(Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021)
Before the Judicial Proceedings Committee
On February 17, 2021**

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

The public has the right to know about officers who are accused of improper misconduct. Moreover, citizens with legitimate complaints against an officer need a proper system to report their complaint with the confidence that it will be documented and taken seriously.

Senate Bill 588 orders the creation of a database compiling information directly from a state's attorney regarding officers with credibility concerns as well as formal complaints filed against officers. These records will be available to the public by request through the Maryland Public Information Act. Details about a complaint filed against an officer will be admissible in judicial or administrative proceedings that involve the officer.

The bill calls for the State's Attorney to keep a list of officers who have been found or alleged to have committed acts diminishing their credibility, integrity, honesty or other characteristics that would constitute exculpatory or impeachment evidence in a criminal case. The State's Attorney will also be obligated to provide the name of each officer on their list to the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to be included in the database. This compilation of information will ultimately help prosecutors avoid wasting precious resources by building cases upon the testimony of an officer with credibility issues which will not withstand cross examinations; this concept is not new. In fact, former Baltimore City State's Attorney Patricia Jessamy used to maintain a list of officers who "engaged in conduct that is so egregious that it undermines the due administration of justice."¹ The standard for who is included on the list in SB- 588 is much narrower than even that standard. It has been reported that Baltimore's current State's Attorney has over 300 officers on her current list.² Further, these lists have been described

¹ Harris, Melissa, *Jessamy pushes on lying by police* *The Baltimore Sun* (July 11, 2008). See <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/bs-xpm-2008-07-11-0807100285-story.html>

²Anderson, Jessica. *Mosby flags 305 Baltimore police officers for possible credibility issues; department downplays claim.* *The Baltimore Sun*. (December 3, 2019 at 6:27 PM). <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/crime/bs-md-ci-cr-gtff-commission-meeting-20191203-uuumag74hnhxhgn2oeadz53ki-story.html>; Fenton, Justin. *Baltimore's State's Attorney says she has a list of 300 officers with credibility issues. Public defenders are demanding to see it.*

as a best practice by Fair and Just Prosecution.³ In Wayne County, police officials expressed concerns that its district attorney's do not call lists might not tell the full story, which they believe could "unfairly taint honest cops."⁴ This is why it should be emphasized that the database created under this bill will include allegations as well as the findings and conclusions from all complaints filed against an officer.

In addition to the obligation for our prosecutors to maintain a Brady list, SB 588 also obligates chiefs of law enforcement agencies to submit complaints against their officers to the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (the "Commission"). The Commission is then obligated to establish, maintain and create regulations for a misconduct database for complaints alleging misconduct which occurred during a law enforcement officer's duties. The submission would include:

1. The officer's name and badge number;
2. A general description of the alleged misconduct;
3. The date and location of the alleged misconduct;
4. The date the complaint was filed;
5. The law enforcement agency's that is the officer's employer; and
6. The disposition of the complaint.

It is this last portion of the submission which is causing the most controversy. However, if a complaint is determined to be unsustainable or unfounded, this result will be clearly indicated. Officers who have done no harm do not need to worry about being listed in the database with complaints providing no information about the incident; the database will include the finding that the officer was not found to have committed any misconduct.

Finally, this database may also be used by law enforcement agencies solely for making hiring decisions. With that, I am asking for a favorable report on SB 588.

The Baltimore Sun (February 11, 2020 at 8:00 AM). See <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/crime/bs-md-ci-cr-do-not-call-list-compel-20200211-xsjzrh2we5df7etgreyxgu2e4y-story.html>

³ <https://fairandjustprosecution.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/St.-Louis-Brady-Sign-On-Statement.01.08.19-9.04.44-PM.pdf>.

⁴Hunter, George. Wayne County prosecutor to release list of untruthful cops. The Detroit News (July 15, 2020) See <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/wayne-county/2020/07/15/wayne-county-prosecutors-to-release-list-of-untruthful-cops/5443444002/>

PGCYD Press Release 2_2_21.pdf

Uploaded by: Elliott, Richard DeShay

Position: FAV



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Contact: Martin Mitchell

President
410-493-7966/president@pgcyd.com

Prince George's County Young Democrats

Prince George's County, MD - The membership of the Prince George's County Young Democrats Legislative Committee have voted to support the following coalitions and legislation:

Coalitions

- UMD Black Student Leaders
- Sunrise Movement- Baltimore

Resolutions in SUPPORT

DELEGATE JULIAN IVEY (D47A)

- HB332: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources
- HB702: Higher Education - Standardized Tests - Prohibition of Use in Student Admissions
- HB142: Income Tax - Student Loan Debt Relief Tax Credit - Alterations
- HB722: Procurement - Disparity Studies - African American-Owned Businesses
- HB723: Public Institutions of Higher Education – Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Individuals – Academic and Employment Opportunities
- HB703: Transportation - I-270 and I-495 - Prohibition on Adding New Lanes
- HB705: Transportation – I-270 and I-495 – Prohibition on Toll Lanes (Stop Unnecessary Toll Lanes Act of 2021)

CANTU AMENDMENT: In the event of said toll lanes, that the fines generated by toll lanes contribute to public transportation and air quality improvement, including tree planting.

- HB725: Constitutional Amendment - Legislative Sessions

FRIAS AMENDMENT: This legislation will appropriate ½ of current appropriations for staff and associated workers as is appropriated for the 90 day session, for each of said newly created legislative sessions.

SENATOR CHARLES SYDNOR (D44)

- SB187: Criminal Procedure – Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis, Searching, Regulation, and Oversight
- SB55: Legislative Department - Eligibility to Serve as Senators and Delegates - Place of Abode
- SB166: Criminal Procedure - Police Officers - Duty to Report Misconduct (Maryland Police Accountability Act)

Written By:

Phylicia Henry, *Chair of Legislative Affairs as a Whole.*

Janna Parker, *Chair of County Affairs.*

Hugo E. Cantu, *Vice Chair of County Affairs.*

Richard DeShay Elliott, *Chair of State Affairs.*

Interested members of the general public are encouraged to engage with PGCYD, regardless of geographic location, as long as they meet two criteria: they are registered Democrats or Independents and are interested in serving the greater good for our communities.

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- **SB590: Criminal Procedure - Required Disclosures - Brady Material**
- **SB456: Office of the State's Attorney - Collection and Publication of Prosecutorial Information**
- **SB588: Law Enforcement Officers - Creditability of Witnesses and Misconduct Database (Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021)**

ELLIOTT AMENDMENT: Said database has the requirement to transfer in data from other states' misconduct databases.

SENATOR JILL P. CARTER (D41)

- **SB482: Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Whistleblower Protections**
- **SB419: No-Knock Warrants - Elimination**

CANTU/PARKER AMENDMENT: If a Sheriff's office or other policing agency is found to be executing or pursuing a no-knock warrant following the passage of this bill, there will be a fine of no less than \$10,000 than it is earmarked for the jurisdiction's Public Defender's Office with said funding coming from their operating budget of said policing agencies without the ability to supplement or supplant said fines in future budgets.

DELEGATE C.T. WILSON (D28)

- **HB11: Public Schools - African American History - Development of Content Standards and Implementation**
- **HB106: Office of the Attorney General - Website to Report Robocalls and Other Spam Calls**

SENATOR CLARENCE LAM (D12)

- **SB234: Personal Information - State and Local Agencies - Restrictions on Access**

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HOUSE DELEGATION CHAIR, DELEGATE EREK BARRON (D24)

- **PG-414: Prince George's County – Public Safety and Behavioral Health Surcharges – Behavioral Health Programs**

ELLIOTT/CANTU AMENDMENT: This legislation will disallow the purchase of firearms and/or tactical gear with this surcharge's revenue.

DELEGATE JAZZ LEWIS (D24)

- **HB409: Juveniles Convicted as Adults - Sentencing - Limitations and Reduction (Juvenile Restoration Act)**

DELEGATE ALONZO WASHINGTON (D22)

- **PG-506-21: Prince George's County – Board of Education – Student Member Voting and Member Candidacy**

DELEGATE DEBRA M. DAVIS (D28)

- **HB414: Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Project – Funding**

Written By:

Phylicia Henry, Chair of Legislative Affairs as a Whole.

Janna Parker, Chair of County Affairs.

Hugo E. Cantu, Vice Chair of County Affairs.

Richard DeShay Elliott, Chair of State Affairs.

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DELEGATE ANDREA FLETCHER-HARRISON (D24)

- **HB448: State Government - Legal and Employee Holiday - Juneteenth National Freedom Day**

DELEGATE SHEREE SAMPLE-HUGHES (D37A)

- **HB667: General Provisions - State Song - Repeal**

DELEGATE BRIAN CROSBY (D29B)

- **HB655: Local Government – County Commissioner Elections – District Voting**

DELEGATE BROOKE LIERMAN (D46)

- **HB114: Maryland Transit Administration - Funding (Transit Safety and Investment Act)**

DELEGATE DARRYL BARNES (D25)

- **HB453: Health - Medical Cannabis Reauthorization Act**

DELEGATE ROBIN GRAMMER (D6)

- **HB415: Firearms – Right to Purchase, Own, Possess, and Carry – Medical Cannabis**

Resolutions in OPPOSITION

SPEAKER ADRIENNE FERGUSON (D10) & SENATE PRESIDENT BILL FERGUSON (D46)

- **HB0740/SB0576: Building Opportunity Act of 2021**

CANTU AMENDMENT: The Maryland Stadium Authority will be granted at least one member on the Governing Board by a majority vote among the Prince George's County House Delegation, with recommendations coming from Prince George's County stakeholders.

DELEGATE DAN COX (D4)

- **HB17: Public Safety - Emergency Powers Limitations (Consent of the Governed Act)**
- **OPPOSING** the in-person reopening of the Prince George's County Public Schools system, as COVID is even more contagious and dangerous than when schools first closed down, and many teachers and community elders remain unvaccinated.

CANTU/HARRIS AMENDMENT: Dedicated resources to close the virtual learning gap, establishing guidelines for school resources to assist students, such as providing food and laptops, and using best practices from other successful virtual learning programs

“The members of PGCYD remain committed to amplifying their voices on potential policy decisions that could impact their communities and daily life. We look forward to working with our elected leaders to ensure that public policy presented before us, is for us and for the betterment of everyone, and not just a select few”

Chair of Legislative Affairs As A Whole, Phylicia Henry

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Written By:

Phylicia Henry, Chair of Legislative Affairs as a Whole.

Janna Parker, Chair of County Affairs.

Hugo E. Cantu, Vice Chair of County Affairs.

Richard DeShay Elliott, Chair of State Affairs.

Interested members of the general public are encouraged to engage with PGCYD, regardless of geographic location, as long as they meet two criteria: they are registered Democrats or Independents and are interested in serving the greater good for our communities.

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NFranklin SB588 FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Franklin, Neill

Position: FAV



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ADVANCING JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY SOLUTIONS

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To: Senator William C. Smith, Chair
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair, and
Judicial Proceedings Committee Members

From: Major Neill Franklin, Ret., on behalf of the
Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP)

Favorable - Senate Bill 588

Law Enforcement Officers - Creditability of Witnesses and Misconduct Database
(Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021)

Hearing: Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

Distinguished members of the Committee, thank you very much for the opportunity to present the views of the Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP) in support of Senate Bill 588 (SB588).

The Law Enforcement Action Partnership's mission is to unite and mobilize the voice of law enforcement in support of drug policy and criminal justice reforms that will make communities safer by focusing law enforcement resources on the greatest threats to public safety, promoting alternatives to arrest and incarceration, addressing the root causes of crime, and working toward healing police-community relations.

Police reform is a very important part of our mission, which includes ensuring that there are processes of transparency and accountability within our police organizations. Passing SB588 will send a clear message to the people that our law makers believe in processes that hold our police officials accountable and that the rights of police officers are on par with the rights of citizens.

Police officers have great power and authority in our neighborhoods. Unfortunately, we see over and over again what can happen when rogue police officers go unchecked and untracked (GTTF). We are also beginning to see that problematic police officers tend to have history of misconduct, only coming to public attention when they are recorded doing something egregious, like the inappropriate and illegal use of deadly force.

Aside from treating every citizen with dignity and respect, a police officer's integrity and credibility is most important; it is an essential job function. Police officers have the ultimate authority to revoke what is most precious under the Constitution of the United States, liberty. Once a police officer revokes your liberty, they must justify their reason for doing so within sworn affidavits and eventually in a court of law before a judge and or jury; therefore, a police officer's truthfulness must be unquestionable, above reproach.

LawEnforcementActionPartnership.org

Formerly known as Law Enforcement Against Prohibition

Unfortunately, time and time again police officers are caught lying on official reports, sworn affidavits and in our courts of law. And just as bad if not worse, they are seldom held accountable and hardly ever terminated, or criminally charged for perjury.

When it comes down to the credibility of a police officer vs. a witness or the person charged with a crime, there can be no question regarding the officer's integrity and truthfulness. Once credibility is lost, a police officer should be terminated and permanently decertified by the Maryland Police Training Commission. To accomplish this, we need a functional transparent tracking system.

I served more than three decades in policing with the Maryland State Police (MSP), Baltimore Police Department (BPD) and the Maryland Transit Administration Police Force. During the latter years of my career I commanded Planning and Research writing police policy, commanded training divisions for both MSP and BPD, I oversaw the BPD's Human Resources Division, which involved employee discipline and hearing boards, and I managed Internal Affairs for Maryland Transit. During the police hiring process, we eliminated any applicant who was untruthful at any time during the process. While in training, we terminated any and every trainee for integrity deficiencies, such as cheating or lying. And when any of these applicants, or trainees, attempted to get hired by another Maryland police agency, their record of deceit followed them. Why should we not maintain this same standard throughout their entire careers? SB588 will ensure that we do.

In closing, this legislation is extremely important for establishing a culture of transparency, critical to maintaining community trust, which is critical in reducing violent crime. Understand that this database will not be open to public inspection. It would only be accessible to the person in interest, an official who supervises the work of the individual, or an employee organization described in Title 6 of the Education Article of the portion of the personnel record that contains the individual's home address and personal telephone numbers. This is a small requirement with potentially large impact in protecting the liberty of the people we have taken an oath to serve.

The Law Enforcement Action Partnership is set on improving the policing profession, which will have a dramatic impact upon reducing violent crime. It is for this reason and those stated above that we support SB588 and ask that you, the members of this committee, give SB588 a favorable report.

Sincerely,



Major Neil Franklin, Ret.

Treasurer

*Formerly with the Maryland State Police and Baltimore Police Departments

2021-02-17 SB 588 (Support in Concept).pdf

Uploaded by: Jung, Roy

Position: FAV



STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FACSIMILE NO.

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO.

410-576-6584

February 17, 2021

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: The Office of the Attorney General

RE: SB 588: Law Enforcement Officers –Creditability of Witnesses and Misconduct
Database (Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021) (**SUPPORT IN CONCEPT**)

The Office of the Attorney General submits this general statement in support of efforts to advance criminal justice reform and Senate Bill 588's important guiding principles of increasing transparency and accountability in policing.

Specifically, Senate Bill 588 requires the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to maintain a database of certain information regarding any formal complaint against a law enforcement officer that alleges misconduct in the execution of the law enforcement officer's duties. The data would be accessible by law enforcement agencies solely for the purpose of making a hiring decision regarding a specific officer, may be discoverable or admissible in evidence in a judicial or administrative proceeding involving the law enforcement officer, may be published by the Commission in aggregate form, and are subject to inspection under the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA). The bill also requires the State's Attorney for each county to create a list of law enforcement officers who have been found to have committed or are alleged to have committed acts that bear on credibility, integrity, honesty, or other characteristics that would constitute exculpatory or impeachment evidence in a criminal case. The State's Attorneys' lists would also be subject to inspection in accordance with the MPIA.

Although we believe the scope of allegations encompassed by Senate Bill 588 is too broad, the Office of the Attorney General supports the creation of a police misconduct database that includes sustained and certain unsustained complaints, such as credible complaints of sexual misconduct or that reflect upon officer integrity. Last year, the U.S. House of Representatives

passed the “George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020” that, among other things, created the first ever national database on police misconduct incidents to prevent the movement of dangerous officers from department to department. Unfortunately, the bill stalled in the U.S. Senate. While elements of Senate Bill 588 serve as an important stopgap measure to keep track of bad cops within Maryland and between our various law enforcement agencies, it will not necessarily stop bad cops from applying across state lines. For that larger problem, we need Congress to act.

For these reasons, the Office of the Attorney General supports the goals of Senate Bill 588.

cc: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

MD Catholic Conference _FAV_SB0588.pdf

Uploaded by: Kraska, MJ

Position: FAV



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

February 17, 2021

SBB 588

**Law Enforcement Officers - Creditability of Witnesses and Misconduct Database
(Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021)**

Senate Judicial Proceeding Committee

Position: Support

The Maryland Catholic Conference (“Conference”) represents the public policy interests of the three Roman Catholic (arch) dioceses serving Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington.

Senate Bill 588 requires the state’s attorney for each Maryland County to maintain a database of law enforcement officers who have committed acts of dishonestly or exhibited questionable integrity which rise to the level of constituting exculpatory or impeachment evidence in a criminal case. The bill would also require maintenance of a database for formal complaints filed against police officers. The records would be subject to public inspection. The database would be maintained by Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission.

In June of this year, a letter was jointly submitted to all members of Congress by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Chairmen of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, the Committee on Migration, and the Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism, offering reflections and principles for police accountability and reform. Therein, the Chairmen, which included Maryland-serving Bishop Mario Dorsonville-Rodriguez, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington, acknowledged that police “*operating under high standards perform a valuable service for the promotion of the common good in society.*” In recanting the words of Pope Benedict XVI, the letter reinforced that “*a just society needs order and a respect for the rule of law to achieve a peaceful and tranquil coexistence in society.*”

While there are many good, honest policemen and policewomen who risk their lives every day to protect citizens, there are bad actors who violate the public trust. Therefore, it is necessary to have mechanisms in place to acknowledge and memorialize complaints against potential bad actors.

Senate Bill 588 is much akin to laws passed two years ago regarding teacher background checks in Maryland schools, enthusiastically supported by the Conference. Just as in law enforcement, there are many excellent, upstanding teachers in Maryland schools. However, some violate the integrity of the profession and dignity of their students through misconduct. Just as our law

acknowledges this and attempts to protect our students from violate teachers, our law should seek to protect the public from violate police.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 588.

SB 588 Support w Amend.pdf

Uploaded by: Giannetti , John

Position: FWA

Maryland Criminal Defense Attorneys' Association



Maryland House of Delegates Judiciary Committee

February 17, 2021 1pm

Hearing on SB 588

Law Enforcement -Misconduct Database

MCDAA POSITION: SUPPORT W/AMENDMENTS

Bill explanation: The bill creates a database of Law Enforcement Officers concerning allegations of police misconduct and findings of discredited testimony in Court.

MCDAA's position: MCDAA members are very supportive of the sponsor's attempts to address this important issue. Currently MCDAA members, along with the Office of Public Defender, are working to implement such a database and are revising the contents to preserve constitutional rights and due process. We will continue to work with the sponsor to craft amendments which will ultimately create such a database to help better inform defendants of track record of the police officers involved in the case.

For additional information or questions regarding this legislation, please contact MCDAA Government Relations Contact: John Giannetti 410.300.6393, JohnGiannetti.mcdaa@gmail.com or MCDAA legislative committee members: Erica Suter, 202.468.6640 erica@ericasuterlaw.com or Andy Jezic 301.742.7470 avjezic@aol.com

SB 588.pdf

Uploaded by: Levi, Deborah

Position: FWA

Deborah Katz Levi
Director of Special Litigation
Baltimore City Felony Trial Division
Maryland Office of the Public Defender

Written Testimony Senate Bill 588

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender supports Senate Bill 588 with the following amendment to page 2, line 32, after the word Act, insert “and the criminal rules of discovery.”

MCPA-MSA_SB 588 Misconduct Database _Oppose.pdf

Uploaded by: Mansfield, Andrea

Position: UNF



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith Jr., Chairman and
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Chief David Morris, Co-Chair, MCPA, Joint Legislative Committee
Sheriff Darren Popkin, Co-Chair, MSA, Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: February 17, 2021

RE: **SB 588 – Law Enforcement Officers – Creditability of Witnesses and
Misconduct Database (Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021)**

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) OPPOSE SB 588. MCPA and MSA support greater transparency and accountability across law enforcement agencies, but have concerns with the requirements of this bill and the construction of a widely available misconduct database.

A key area of concern with respect to the database is the word "ALLEGES." This bill would require law enforcement agencies to transmit to the MPTSC upon receipt all allegations of misconduct prior to any investigation or administrative action being taken. An individual who requests to review the database may form a very different perception of an officer based on alleged complaints. Although the law enforcement agency is required to transmit the final action upon conclusion of a thorough, objective and impartial investigation, the damage to an officer's reputation is already done, is irreversible, and unequivocally unfair. Likewise, an individual's perception may not be swayed by a final action of unsustained or unfounded. For this reason, only sustained complaints should be a part of the database.

Law enforcement agencies receive hundreds of complaints, many of which are false and have no basis. The use of the word "ALLEGES" will capture all these types of complaints in the database. To avoid misconceptions as described above the Committee may wish to narrow the focus of the complaints to those most egregious and again only provide access to those which have been sustained.

Law enforcement agencies do want to know about past infractions of an officer to assist with hiring decisions, but it needs to be done in such a way as to not harm the careers and reputations of good officers. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA OPPOSE SB 588 and an UNFAVORABLE report.

MTA Unfavorable SB588.pdf

Uploaded by: Massoni, Jenna

Position: UNF



M a r y l a n d Troopers Association



INCORPORATED 1979

February 17, 2020

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chairman and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

**RE: SB588 Law Enforcement Officers - Creditability of Witnesses and Misconduct Database
(Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021)**

POSITION: OPPOSE

The MTA opposes SB588. Files involving discipline or investigatory files may have confidential whistleblower information, and other confidential witness information, that could undermine the law enforcement investigation as well as future investigations. This legislation would permit this information be made available to anyone who makes the request regardless of having any connection to the complaint. In the current world of social media, this could expose sensitive information about law enforcement officers and potentially their families to wide spread dissemination and wording taken out of context.

We would also object to the State's Attorney's list including officers who were alleged to have committed an act and that there is no appeal process to be removed from the list. If an officer is alleged to have committed the act, but the allegation is non-sustained, unfounded, or not guilty, he/she would not be able to be removed the list.

The Maryland Court of Appeals went to great effort to highlight the sensitive nature of these internal investigatory records and the long-established and justified precedent of shielding the specifics of such an investigation.

Brian Blubaugh
President
Maryland Troopers Association

Member of National Troopers Coalition

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