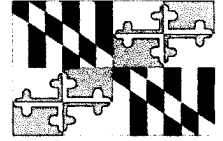




CLYDE BOATWRIGHT
STATE PRESIDENT

Maryland State Lodge
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

8302 COVE ROAD, BALTIMORE, MD 21222



KENNY SCHUBERT
SECRETARY
EARL KRATSCH
TREASURER

1/19/21

Senate Bill 42 - Police Officers – Screening for Violent Behavior, Aggressive Behavior, and Bias

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstreicher, and esteemed Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

The Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police OPPOSES Senate Bill 42 Police Officers – Screening for Violent Behavior, Aggressive Behavior, and Bias

The intentions of this bill encompass behaviors that we can all agree have no place in Law Enforcement or in any Public Service Occupation; However, this bill attempts to deal with these issues for Police Officer Applicants and Police Officers at the same time which is a complicated and ill-advised practice.

The Police Officer Applicant should be, and is, put under an intense background investigation. If during this process an applicant is found to have been involved in or have a propensity for Violent Behavior or Aggressive Behavior, then they are currently disqualified and there is no place for them in Law Enforcement. A 2nd chance, which this bill would allow, should not be permitted.

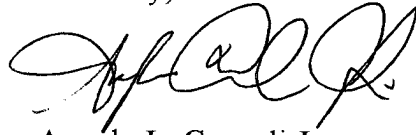
Bias training teaches that everyone has biases of some degree and category. It is the degree of the Bias and how you handle them that are of importance. The degree of Bias or extent of the effect of the Bias on the applicant or Officer is not addressed in this bill and therefore makes this section too vague.

This bill also allows an officer that is convicted of a crime involving excessive force an ability to remain a police officer and makes other assumptions that it is possible to receive enough counseling to no longer have any bias or overly aggressive behavior. For lack of compliance with this bill there is also a non-standardized way to deal with officers which can, and will, lead to the unequitable handling of cases by different jurisdictions when officers fail to comply or are found to have bias or aggressive behavior.

The Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police for these reasons respectfully OPPOSES Senate Bill 42 - Police Officers – Screening for Violent Behavior, Aggressive Behavior, and Bias

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Consoli Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Angelo L. Consoli Jr,
2nd Vice President,
Fraternal Order of Police, Maryland
State Lodge