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**BILL NO.:**            **SB 50**

**TITLE:**                **Criminal Procedure - Police Officers - Duty to Intervene**

**SPONSOR:**            **Senator Carter**

**COMMITTEE:**        **Judicial Proceedings**

**POSITION:**          **LETTER OF INFORMATION**

**DATE:**                **January 28, 2021**

Senate Bill 166 – Criminal Procedure - Police Officers - Duty to Report Misconduct (Maryland Police Accountability Act) is a bill that would require a police officer to attempt the stop or prevent the use of excessive force.

In October 2020, Baltimore County passed the SMART Policing Act, a law that set forth policing procedures which modernized policing tactics, updated use of force policy, improved training and accountability, and expanded transparency in the department. The establishment of the duty to intervene was included in this act to codify the prevention of use of excessive force.

Trust in state and local institutions requires faith in the stewards of public safety. Law enforcement officers must intervene in instances where excessive use of force is employed. By making the duty to intervene law, police officers will be able to act as checks on one another’s behavior without fear of retribution.

This legislation would effectively implement policies Baltimore County currently has in place at the State level, and would be adopted by jurisdictions that currently do not have such a law.

For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at [cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov).