



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**BILL:** **Senate Bill 166 - Criminal Procedure - Police Officers - Duty to Report Misconduct (Maryland Police Accountability Act)**

**SPONSOR:** **Senator Sydnor, *et al.***

**HEARING DATE:** **January 21, 2021**

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

**CONTACT:** **Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411**

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**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**

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The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 166 - Criminal Procedure - Police Officers - Duty to Report Misconduct (Maryland Police Accountability Act)** which requires a police officer to report misconduct to their own supervisor or the chief of the law enforcement agency in which they are employed if they have actual knowledge that another police officer has engaged in:

- Homicide,
- The use of excessive force,
- A sexual crime,
- Theft or a related crime,
- Perjury,
- Fraud or a related crime, or
- Tampering with or fabricating physical evidence.

Police officers are entrusted with protecting the community against those who would seek to harm us. It is an unfortunate reality that at times that means officers must protect against fellow officers who would abuse the authority we have entrusted in them. Ensuring that police officers hold fellow officers to the same standards they would hold a member of the public ensures a consistent application of the law; such accountability is vital in maintaining the trust of the community. This has already

been mandated in the Prince George's County Police Department, where General Orders require police officers to report the misconduct of other police officers.

For these reasons, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 166** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.