



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

1300 REISTERSTOWN ROAD, PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND 21208 (410) 653-3885 1-800-TROOPER

E-mail: info@mdtroopers.org