



TESTIMONY FOR SB0260
PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE OFFICER’S PERFORMANCE REVIEW BOARD

Bill Sponsor: Senator Ellis

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0260 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state with well over 30,000 members.

Our Coalition members are concerned about the lack of real oversight on police officers. Having police offices manage their own officers, when their actions affect the entire community seems counter-intuitive. Because their actions are so significant, especially in incidents where use of force occurred, it is important for the public to have some kind of oversight that goes beyond the immediate.

If an officer has a pattern of use of force or has been warned about their conduct, even if they are terminated, there is no history of what has been done as they move from one police office to another within the state. This is how the system protects officers who should not be officers.

This bill is important as a way to document poor behavior and ensure that annually an officer must answer for any actions that have violated the oath to the citizens they are sworn to protect.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.