

February 1, 2021

House Judiciary Committee
HB 151 - Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights - Repeal
Position - Favorable

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice-Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Committee:

We write in strong support of the repeal of the Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of Rights (HB 151).

On October 6th the Police Reform and Accountability Workgroup submitted their recommendations on how our state can best reform our criminal justice and policing system. One of their recommendations was a full repeal of LEOBR.

LEOBR allows officers certain rights and provisions that are not allotted to civilians such as:

- Allowing officers charged with crimes the opportunity to delay interrogations for up to five days in order to find legal counsel
- Limiting the time a civilian submit a complaint against an officer to one year and one day after the alleged misconduct
- Allowing accused officers to receive written information on the name, command, and rank of the lead investigator before investigations can begin.

Maryland was the first state to create a Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights, and we cannot be the last state to repeal it. Once LEOBR is repealed, we can begin to move forward in our state's promise to hold our police and sheriffs accountable and make sure we remove officers who are using excessive force and brutalising civilians. In the wake of mass protest and a cultural shift in how people see policing, our state must take action and right the wrong of passing this harmful piece of legislation.

We ask the committee for a favorable vote on HB151 - the full repeal of the Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of Rights.

Thank you,

Carlos Childs
State Organizing Director
Our Revolution Maryland