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Ways and Means Committee
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB1316- Baltimore City – Police Officers – Promotional Appointments
Hearing: February 23, 2021**

Chairman Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Under the current law, officers are ranked from highest to lowest in qualifying score. The commissioner then picks from those officers who place in the highest five positions for promotional appointment. Once the appointment is made, the commissioner must then fill the next vacancy in the department, if any, with an applicant from the remaining four officers. The list is valid for up to one year, except when the applicant is no longer available. The commissioner is also prohibited from removing any offered name for any reason.

Additionally under current law, The Civilian Review Board of Baltimore City is authorized to process complaints lodged by members of the public who allege abusive language, false arrest, false imprisonment, harassment, or excessive force by members of Baltimore Police Department (BPD). The board may also review the police department's policies and make recommendations to the commissioner and issue subpoenas to compel the production of records. If a complaint is not sustained or the police officer is exonerated, on written request by the police officer sent to the board, the board must expunge all records of the complaint.

HB1316 Alters the procedures used by the Police Commissioner of Baltimore City to award promotional appointments by the following steps:

1. increases the number of applicants from 5 to 20 included on the eligible list prepared for use by the Commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) when making promotional appointments;
2. Makes corresponding increases for subsequent positions on the eligible list; and
3. Renames the procedure from the "Rule of Five" to the "Rule of Twenty."

In addition, the bill authorizes the commissioner to remove eligible appointees from the list if, between the time the applicant applied for the promotion and the time in which the applicant is to be selected for the promotion, a misconduct complaint for which the punishment could be termination if found guilty has been sustained by the Civilian Review Board of Baltimore City against the applicant.

For the following reasons, we urge the committee to vote favorably on **HB1316**.

Thank you.

Del. Stephanie Smith