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DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER

Health and Government Operations  
Committee

Chair, St. Mary's County Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Delegate Luke Clippinger  
Chairman  
House Judiciary Committee  
House Office Building  
Room 101  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Testimony- HB 525– St. Mary's County – Law Enforcement Hearing Board – Civilian Members SUPPORT**

Good afternoon, Chairman Clippinger, and members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to present **HB 525– St. Mary's County – Law Enforcement Hearing Board – Civilian Members**

This bill is the result of a meeting that I attended at my local NAACP over the summer in which they expressed a need for community engagement with the local sheriff's office. This bill very simply enables the county to add 2 civilian members to a hearing board dealing with officers' punitive measures.

**Background:**

Current law provides that, if an investigation or interrogation of a law enforcement officer results in a recommendation of demotion, dismissal, transfer, loss of pay, reassignment, or similar action that is considered punitive, the law enforcement officer is entitled to a hearing on the issues by a hearing board before the law enforcement agency takes that action.

**What this bill does:**

This bill allows the addition of 2 civilian members, either voting or non-voting to be appointed to that hearing board. I believe that this will encourage the public to be involved and foster more transparency and accountability between the police and the public.

The bill is fully supported by the St. Mary's County Sheriff, and by the St. Mary's Board of County Commissioners. The bill is also supported by the local NAACP chapter, in St. Mary's County.

I ask that the committee give this bill a FAVORABLE report.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Morgan".

Matt Morgan  
Delegate

