



HARFORD COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF'S UNION

Incorporated 1989

PO Box 881, Bel Air, Maryland 21014

Maryland House of Delegate Judiciary Committee
Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street Annapolis, MD 21401
RE: Senate Bill 627 – LEOBR – Repeal and Procedures for Discipline

March 25, 2021

Dear Delegate Clippinger and Distinguished Members of the Judicial Committee,

On behalf of over 300 members of the Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union, I have a major concern regarding Senate Bill 627.

Initially, I would like to commend the Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee for the bipartisan effort while developing Senate Bill 627. While I believe the LEOBR standard is being demonized under false pretenses, there are elements of the current proposed bill that will allow for due process.

The one crucial element that should be amended pertains to the sworn, higher rank officer included on a trial board. The proposed three-person board already encompasses two independent civilian members. What the trial board panel is lacking is the inclusion of a member of the agency that has similar perspective and experience as the accused. A law enforcement Corporal has a different experience level than a law enforcement Lieutenant or Captain, which will undoubtedly affect the decision-making process. Allowing the higher rank would not preclude the chief or designee from participating in the trial board. This could limit the trial board members from truly examining the totality of the circumstances.

Therefore, on behalf of the members of the Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union, I am requesting the members of the Judiciary Committee to amend the bill to allow for an equal rank member of the trial board or vote UN-FAVORABLY for Senate Bill 627.

Sincerely,

Gerald Eaton

Gerald Eaton, Sergeant at Arms
Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union
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