



Voices Maryland

Committee: Judiciary

Testimony on: HB0151-- Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights - Repeal

Organization: Voices Maryland

Person Submitting: Sarahia Benn, Legislative Executive

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 9, 2021

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing testimony today in support of HB0151. Voices Maryland is a grassroots organization focused on State and County level legislation and policies that impacts marginalized communities and veterans affairs. Police accountability legislation is of massive importance to these communities particularly due to how impacted these communities have been historically and currently.

The key issues with LEOBR:

Here are some of the other problems with the law:

- Conflict of interest investigations with one exception Governor can intervene then Attorney General.
- Inconsistencies in LEOBR when civilian review boards attempted to be created in Frederick in 2000
- LEOBR is extra rights that's why it's called a Bill of rights for law enforcement. It is extra privileges that ordinary citizens do not enjoy who get questioned by police, nor by ordinary employees whom their employers suspect of misconduct.
- LEOBR's red tape harms the accuracy of investigations, too.
- Under LEOBR, the chief of the department cannot order suspension or dismissal until

- after a hearing board does its work, reversing the arrangement often found elsewhere..
● [The law hides information.](#)

To protect Black, Veteran, and Marginalized citizens we need to repeal LEOBR and consider other options to address these issues.

(Dedicated to Black History month)

"I'm a United States district judge. That would not have been possible even fifty years ago. But it is possible today, and I remember that progress every day I preside over this court — and I remember how far we still have to go." Constance Baker Motley

For these reasons we urge you to vote favorably for HB0151.