



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

Michael S. Harrison
Police Commissioner

TO: The Honorable Members of the House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Michelle Wirzberger, Esq., Director of Government Affairs, Baltimore Police Dept.

RE: House Bill 1278 Public Safety – Interjurisdictional Policing Grant Program Agency Exemption

DATE: March 15, 2022

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair McIntosh, Vice-Chair Chang, and members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore Police Department **supports** House Bill 1278.

House Bill 1278 establishes the Interjurisdictional Policing Grant Program to be administered by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim's Services. The bill mandates an annual appropriation in the amount of \$3.5 million for grants to counties for the purpose of defraying costs associated with establishing and supporting interjurisdictional policing agreements,

The Baltimore Police Department has many different initiatives in which we work closely with other law enforcement agencies. For instance, we are currently working closely with our regional law enforcement partners to share information, analytics and suspect/vehicle information associated with ATM thefts in the metropolitan area. This initiative which began in December, 2020, has led to a significant decrease in ATM thefts within Baltimore City. In 2020, there were 130 cases whereas in 2021 there were 72. To aid in the cooperative program, the Department has assigned a detective in each district to be hyper-focused in coordinating, tracking and disseminating intelligence needed to apprehend those responsible for these thefts. We continue to work closely with our law enforcement partners and our businesses by educating them on ways to secure their machines and target harden their establishments to reduce the opportunity for ATM thefts.

We have found that interjurisdictional cooperation amongst law enforcement agencies can truly make all Maryland communities safer. This bill provides much needed support for this type of effort. Therefore, the Baltimore Police Department respectfully requests a **favorable** report on House Bill 1278.