

State of Maryland Office of the Attorney General

February 22, 2022

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair, Judicial Proceedings

Committee

FROM: Carrie J. Williams, Assistant Attorney General

RE: Attorney General's Support for SB 556

The Attorney General urges the Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on SB 556. SB 556 mandates that all law enforcement agencies require the use of body-worn cameras by July 1, 2025. Currently, only the law enforcement agencies of a county are required to have body-worn cameras by July 1, 2025.

Body-worn cameras promote transparency in law enforcement. They can also corroborate witness testimony and provide training opportunities. Expanding the requirement for body-worn cameras to all law enforcement agencies will help create uniformity and consistency in law enforcement in Maryland.

The Attorney General urges a favorable report on SB 556.

cc: Members of the Committee