



Secular Maryland

secularmaryland@tutanota.com

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March 09, 2022

**HB 463 - SUPPORT**

Civil Rights - Violation of Rights - Governmental Liability

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Moon, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

This bill proposes that citizens be granted the ability to seek redress in civil court when their rights under the state constitution are violated by the actions of a police officer. If the police officer is not convicted of a crime for the actions at issue and is deemed to have acted in good faith then the police officer's employer will indemnify the police officer, otherwise the police officer will be personally liable for no more than \$25,000 of the civil penalty, or 5% of the judgement if less than \$25,000, with the remainder paid by the employer. Frivolous claims against police officers can result in awarding attorney fees and costs to the prevailing defendant.

Respectfully,  
Mathew Goldstein  
3838 Early Glow Ln  
Bowie, MD