



**PAUL DeWOLFE**  
PUBLIC DEFENDER

**KEITH LOTRIDGE**  
DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

**MELISSA ROTHSTEIN**  
DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

**KRYSTAL WILLIAMS**  
DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DIVISION

**ELIZABETH HILLIARD**  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DIVISION

## **POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**BILL: HB 0426 Vehicle Laws - Policies and Prohibition Against Discriminatory Traffic Stops**

**FROM: Maryland Office of the Public Defender**

**POSITION: Favorable**

**DATE: 02/04/2022**

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender respectfully requests that this Committee issue a favorable report on House Bill 426.

House Bill 0426 would require the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to develop a model policy which expands the scope of a prohibited traffic stop to include “race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation.” Any of these characteristics could not be the sole justification to initiate a traffic stop.

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender appreciates and supports efforts that will encourage anti-discriminatory practices within Maryland’s law enforcement agencies. We further encourage the effectuation of law enforcement policy against race-based traffic stops, and against any traffic stops based solely on an individual's national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

**For these reasons, the Maryland Office of the Public Defender urges this Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 33.**

---

**Submitted by: Government Relations Division of the Maryland Office of the Public Defender.**