



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

From the desk of Mayor Abigail McNinch, Town of Denton, Maryland

Committee: House Judiciary

Bill: __HB 1184 – Police Accountability Boards and Administrative Charging Committees – Municipal Corporations

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

As Mayor of the Town of Denton and Chair of the Maryland Municipal League Legislative Committee, I am writing in support of House Bill 1184.

When the police reform package passed last year, counties were charged with forming administrative charging committees and accountability boards to help process complaints and determine disciplinary action for police officers. However, municipalities were not authorized to do the same; instead, they must rely on county boards to process municipal concerns. More than half of Maryland's 157 municipalities have their own police departments, separate from their counties. Some may not have the will or resources to create their own boards, but those that can should have the ability to do so.

House Bill 1184 is a fair and balanced approach that recognizes the independence and efficacy of municipal government, aids in improving policing, and ensures municipal constituents are represented. We are confident that this new process will strengthen police/community relationships and ensure that local police departments are strong, honorable, and transparent.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 1184.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mayor Abigail McNinch, Town of Denton

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