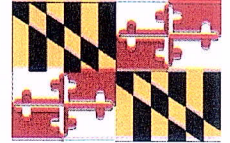




CLYDE BOATWRIGHT  
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February 27, 2023

**HB 1126 - Local Law Enforcement – Recruitment and Hiring – Bonus Grants**

Dear Chairman Barnes and Distinguished Members of the Appropriations Committee,

The Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police **SUPPORTS House Bill 1126 - Local Law Enforcement – Recruitment and Hiring – Bonus Grants**. This bill will require the Governor to include in the annual Budget Bill an appropriation of \$3,500,000 for local law enforcement agencies to be used as grants to improve police officer recruitment and hiring for fiscal years 2025 through 2027. The grants can be used to offer hiring bonuses to new hires of up to \$15,000. It also limits which agencies would qualify for these grants.

The past few years have shown a drastic decrease in the applications and hiring of new police officers and the exit of many experienced police officers. This has left many agencies with huge vacancy rates. Municipal agencies face the double negative of having smaller budgets and smaller sized agencies. For them only 1 or 2 vacancies can lead to a serious shortage as many of these agencies represent smaller jurisdictions and have a size of 2 to 50 officers and budgets that cannot compete with the larger agencies that are able to grab applicants with hiring bonuses the municipalities cannot afford. This bill will allow them to be competitive with those agencies and fill the voids that they so desperately need to fill.

On behalf of the more than 20,000 Courageous Men and Women of the Maryland Fraternal Order of Police we thank you for your support, thank Delegate Ivey for sponsoring this legislation, and ask for your **FAVORABLE** vote on **House Bill 1126 - Local Law Enforcement – Recruitment and Hiring – Bonus Grants**

Angelo L. Consoli Jr,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, FOP, Maryland State Lodge  
President, FOP Lodge 89, Prince George's County