

SB105-FAV-MML.pdf

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Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

January 19, 2023

Committee: Senate Budget and Taxation

Bill: SB 105 - Law Enforcement Officers - Compensation and Benefits - Study

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports Senate Bill 105, which we expect to provide valuable information that will lead to municipal police agencies recruiting and retaining top quality police officers. The bill tasks the State with conducting a study of the compensation and benefits of law enforcement officers in the State and publishing a report on the findings.

There are 89 municipal police agencies in Maryland and at some point there have been challenges with police officer recruitment and retention in every part of the State; this problem seems to be particularly pervasive at the moment. As the costs and risks to operate a police agency continue to rise, the issue of officer compensation is of the utmost importance; both in terms of running an efficient and effective municipal public safety program but also finding and developing the right officers.

The study outlined in SB 105 is an appropriate vehicle to provide much needed information on police officer compensation that municipal police agencies can use to continue providing critical public safety services. For these reasons the League respectfully requests that this committee provide House Bill 105 with a favorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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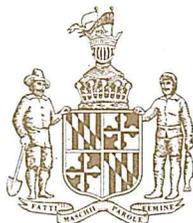
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SB105JacksonTestimony.pdf

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TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 105
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS –
COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS – STUDY
BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
JANUARY 19, 2023

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Fellow Committee Members:

Senate Bill 105 is a piece of legislation that simply requires the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services to study the compensation and benefits of law enforcement officers in Maryland.

For many years, law enforcement agencies throughout Maryland have suffered high attrition rates, severe migration of officers between agencies, and decreasing lengths of officer tenure across the board. The aim of this legislation is to better understand the root causes of these issues and to find better ways to address these problems.

As someone who spent the majority of his professional career in the public safety arena, this issue is very important to me. This bill is a straightforward and modest effort to help level the salary and benefit playing field for law enforcement agencies and to start the ball rolling toward creating more continuity in the public safety field in Maryland.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 105.