



Prince George's County Municipal Association
An Association of 27 Municipalities



HOUSE BILL 1126 – SUPPORT W/ AMENDMENTS
Appropriations Committee
March 9, 2023

The Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) writes to **SUPPORT w/ AMENDS House Bill 1126 - Local Law Enforcement – Recruitment and Hiring – Bonus Grants** which requires the Governor to appropriate \$3,500,000 for certain fiscal years for grant funding for certain local law enforcement agencies to improve police officer recruitment and hiring. It also requires the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services to administer certain funds and requires certain local law enforcement agencies to use grant funding for certain purposes, ensuring certain local law enforcement agencies will submit certain information to the Office as well.

Nationally, local law enforcement is experiencing a crisis in officer recruitment and retention. In 2019 a survey of law enforcement executives was conducted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), this report found that 78% of responding agencies had difficulty recruiting qualified candidates, and 75% felt that recruiting challenges were worse than they had been five years earlier (IACP, 2019). Further data obtained by the Police Executive Research Foundation (PERF) found that 63% of agencies reported a decrease in the number of applicants for open police-officer positions relative to five years earlier (PERF, 2019).

Our municipalities are not immune to this shortage and the development of grant funding for local law enforcement agencies to improve police officer recruitment and hiring is a critical step for the State to take. Unfortunately, challenges affecting the recruiting and retention of qualified police officers can contribute to higher rates of crime and social dysfunction in communities. Therefore, we believe it is necessary that this bill be amended to include all municipalities.

By amending HB1126, the legislature would be prioritizing best outcomes for the 27 municipalities in Prince George's County and across the State and supporting legislation that is inclusive of all municipalities' need for greater support for local law enforcement. Therefore, PGCMA respectfully requests a **favorable** report for **House Bill 1126**. Thank you.

Melinda Mendoza, President
The Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA)

For more information call or email:

Therese M. Hessler | 301-503-2576 | therese@ashlargr.com