

BILL# _SB285_ Lisa Barkan_FAV

Date of Hearing- February 14, 2023

Lisa A. Barkan

707 Stone Barn Road

Towson, MD 21286

TESTIMONY ON SB285 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
**County Police Accountability Boards-Investigation of Complaints of Police
Misconduct**

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Your Lisa A. Barkan

My name is Lisa A. Barkan. I am a resident of District 42B. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB# 285, County Police Accountability Boards-Investigation of Complaints of Police Misconduct.

I am a retired Assistant Attorney General. I became an attorney because I believe strongly that all people should be treated equally and fairly.

In the wake of Freddie Gray's death, the General Assembly passed the Maryland Police Accountability Act (the "MPAA"). Among other provisions, this law mandates that each county create an independent Police Accountability Board (the "PAB") which provides civilian oversight into allegations of police misconduct. The MPAA did not expressly grant the PABs subpoena power or independent investigatory powers. As a result, the PABs must rely solely on investigations by the police department—the very entity which the PABs are charged with overseeing.

SB285 clarifies that a county can grant a PAB investigatory and subpoena powers. Only with these powers can a PAB truly be an independent entity that will be able to treat people—including law enforcement personnel—equally and fairly.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#285.