

County Police Accountability Boards - Investigation of Complaints of Police Misconduct

Bill Sponsor: Senator Carter

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Lower Shore Progressive Caucus

Person Submitting: Kris Urs, LSPC Member

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0285 on behalf of the Lower Shore Progressive Caucus. The Caucus is a political and activist organization on the Eastern Shore, unaffiliated with any political party, committed to empowering working people by building a Progressive movement on the Lower Eastern Shore.

The main function of Police Accountability Boards is to assess the quality of internal investigations into police misconduct. However, without investigatory and subpoena powers, PABs are largely hamstrung in their ability to fulfill that role. In the majority of localities, PABs will receive investigatory files after the police have completed them, and cannot conduct further investigation into the handling of complaints.

Under this process, PABs will be forced to assess these investigations at face value. But, police investigations and subsequent discipline are routinely inadequate. Furthermore, current law does not mandate police investigate every complaint that is filed.

Until common-sense legislation like this is passed PABs on the Eastern Shore will continue to be paper tigers.

It is for these reasons the Lower Shore Progressive Caucus supports this bill and recommends a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

