



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 0290:

Office of the Attorney General - Independent Investigations Division
- Authority to Prosecute

****FAVORABLE****

TO: Senator William C. Smith, Chair, Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair and the members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Rev. Linda K. Boyd, Co-Chair, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network, Diocese of Maryland

DATE: February 14, 2023

This bill, in part, expands the investigative jurisdiction of the Independent Investigations Division of the Office of the Attorney General to include a police-involved incident resulting in death or an injury to an individual that is not otherwise within the jurisdiction of the Division. Public trust in law enforcement is better served if serious incidents involving law enforcement officers are subject to not just outside scrutiny but also are left to outside prosecutors to decide whether criminal charges should follow.

A local State's Attorney's office too often has local ties to its respective police agency that may prevent it from being objective and impartial in an investigation that involves an injury or death. Everyone, the police agency, the State's Attorney's office, and most important, the community, would be better served if such potential local bias were eliminated in a serious investigation. Such objectivity would result in increased faith in the legal system by the average citizen.

We respectfully request a favorable report.



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OF MARYLAND

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Network