



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

TESTIMONY

February 14, 2023

**Committee:** Senate Judicial Proceedings

**Bill:** SB 285 - County Police Accountability Boards - Investigation of Complaints of Police Misconduct

**Position:** Oppose

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League opposes Senate Bill 285 as it will grant further authority to a county created police accountability board (PAB), without adding any dedicated municipal representation. Specifically, the bill allows counties to authorize their PAB to exercise investigatory and subpoena powers, including in complaints against municipal officers.

MML has raised issue with the specific aspect of the current framework for processing complaints against police officers, that municipal governments are not guaranteed any input into the formation of the county PAB or the administrative charging committee (ACC). This lack of representation is despite the fact that municipal governments operate independently of their county and their citizens often have different priorities than those of the county. Without meaningful municipal representation on the PAB, the voices of municipal residents are being lost in this process. This bill adds significant powers to the PAB, and it is therefore even more important to include municipal representation.

As MML has stated before, municipal participation in the PAB and ACC process is critical to making the police disciplinary framework comprehensive. Since SB 285 adds even more power to the PAB without any meaningful municipal representation, MML opposes SB 285 and asks for an unfavorable report.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Theresa Kuhns

Angelica Bailey Thupari, Esq.

Bill Jorch

Justin Fiore

Chief Executive Officer

Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs

Director, Public Policy

Deputy Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs

1212 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-268-5514 | 800-492-7121 | FAX: 410-268-7004 | [www.mdmunicipal.org](http://www.mdmunicipal.org)