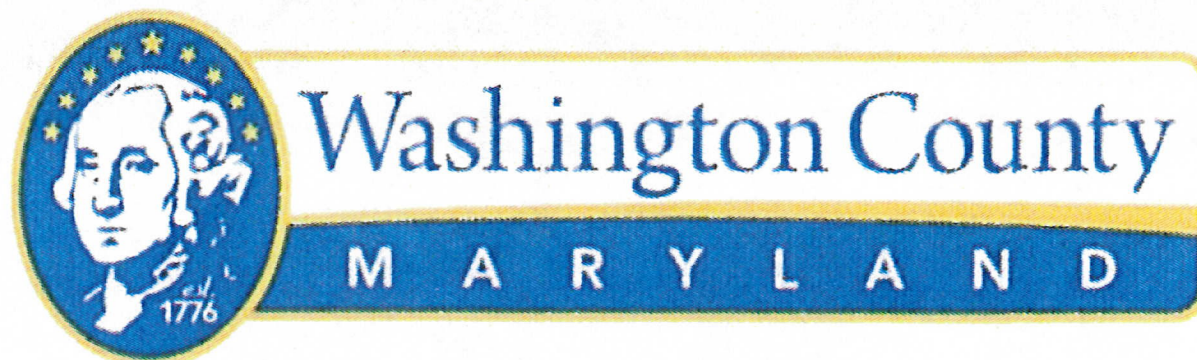


John F. Barr, *President*  
Jeffrey A. Cline, *Vice President*



Derek Harvey  
Wayne K. Keefer  
Randall E. Wagner

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND**

February 3, 2023

Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: - Senate Bill 428; Washington County-Deputy Sheriffs and Correction Deputies-  
Employment Conditions and Collective Bargaining: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Smith:

By a vote of 5-0, the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County unanimously supports Senate Bill 428. SB 428 would alter the grounds on which a deputy sheriff with the rank of major or below, in Washington County, may be discharged after two years of continuous employment; provides that a special deputy sheriff in Washington County is not a State employee for certain reasons; and authorizes sworn deputy sheriffs at the rank of sergeant and below and correctional deputies at the rank of sergeant and below to engage in collective bargaining with the Washington County Sheriff and the County Administrator.


This bill updates certain terminology to comply with changes in State law as a result of the Police Accountability Act. The bill also authorizes the Sheriff and County to engage in collective bargaining with sworn deputies and correctional officers. Collective bargaining would not occur unless the sworn deputies and/or correctional officers of certain ranks asked to be recognized as a collective bargaining unit. The bill defines the issues that could be the subject of the collective bargaining negotiations.

For these reasons, the Board of County Commissioners urges the Committee to approve SB 428.

Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
February 3, 2023  
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Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

By:   
John F. Barr, President

cc (via email): Senator Paul D. Corderman  
Senator Mike McKay