

STEPHANIE SMITH  
*Legislative District 45*  
Baltimore City

HOUSE PARLIAMENTARIAN

Appropriations Committee

*Subcommittees*

Capital Budget

Chair, Education and Economic  
Development

Oversight Committee on Pensions

Joint Committee on Children,  
Youth, and Families

*House Chair*

Baltimore City Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 314  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3486 · 301-858-3486  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3486  
Stephanie.Smith@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB0632: Baltimore City - Baltimore City Sheriff – Staffing**

**Bill Hearing: February 28<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm, Judiciary Committee**

**Chairman Luke Clippinger, Vice Chair David Moon, and members of the committee,**

As we look to find ways to build a safer Baltimore, the Baltimore City Sheriff’s Department requires support from the state to implement acceptable levels of supervision of law enforcement personnel. Currently, there is not enough supervisory staff to enable the Sheriff’s Department to conduct its increasing amount of law enforcement activity. That is why I am sponsoring House Bill 632, which will unlock positions of the Sheriff’s Office and allow for expansion without having to continually request additional legislation.


The bill would add two additional Assistant Sheriffs, four social workers, and open numerous other positions that will allow the Sheriff’s Department to more closely manage its department and increase its capacity. With more staff, the department will be able to delegate its responsibilities more effectively. With the current staff shortages, sheriffs are taking on far more responsibility than they can handle. Instead of just trying to do the bare minimum, we can unlock the potential of the Sheriff’s Department to truly thrive.

One of Sheriff Cogen’s goals is to implement social workers to the staff to assist in providing services to those at risk of homelessness and eviction. This is a goal that we can all share. Social workers are experts in dealing with vulnerable people in a way that law enforcement officers are not. Opening these positions would enable the department to work with people dealing more safely with housing insecurity and start focusing on preventative measures that could improve the lives of many and save the city money.

We cannot continue to hinder our Sheriff's Department. Its responsibilities are simply too important to ignore. I believe that with this bill, we can begin to work toward a Sheriff's Department that works in partnership with the city to serve the people in a more effective and equitable manner.

I strongly urge a favorable report on House Bill 632.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie M. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Delegate Stephanie M. Smith