

March 14, 2023

**Testimony for House Bill 1280, Department of State Police – Professional Occupations –
Application Process**

House Judiciary Committee

Chair Clippinger and members of the Judiciary Committee:

For the record, I am Delegate Kym Taylor, representing District 23 in Prince George's County.

HB1280 will authorize the Secretary of the Maryland Department of State Police (MSP) to change the application process for professional licenses of Private Detective, Security Guard, Security System Technician, and Special Police Officer licenses.

The application process has been a paper process with the submission of paper applications and checks to pay the fees. This requires each applicant to drive to or mail the application to the State Police Licensing Division.

In 2013, with the passing of the Responsible Gun Safety Act, the MSP began a process to automate all the applications and licenses that it processed at the Licensing Division. With the authorization sought in House Bill 1280, all of the applications and licenses will be automated.

This legislation authorizes the Secretary to accept an electronic format, as opposed to the current paper application. It also authorizes the acceptance of electronic payments as opposed to the current check or money order payment.

Once the conversion to electronic applications is completed, the applicant will receive all communication via email, as opposed to U.S. mail, and if the license is issued the licensee will receive renewal notices via email as well. This process makes it easier and more efficient for the businesses and the individual applicants. The electronic payment component will make the collection, tracking, processing, and auditing of payments easier and more efficient.

As stated earlier, this is the last phase of the automation project. We have already approved this process for all other Licensing Department applications, including handgun purchases, handgun permits, and handgun qualification licenses.

I urge a favorable vote on HB1280.