

NICOLE A. WILLIAMS, ESQ.  
*Legislative District 22*  
Prince George's County

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Judiciary Committee

Chair, Public Safety Subcommittee

Vice Chair, Prince George's  
County House Delegation



*Annapolis Office*  
The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 207  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
301-858-3058 · 410-841-3058  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3058  
Nicole.Williams@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 28, 2023

The Honorable Delegate Luke Clippinger

Chairman of the House Judiciary

Committee 6 Bladen Street, Room 101

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**House Bill**  
**585**

Good afternoon, Chair Clippinger, Vice-Chair Moon, and members of the House Judiciary Committee. I am Delegate Nicole Williams of District 22, and I will be testifying today in favor of **House Bill 585**, also known as **Public Safety - Use of Force Incident Reports**. This bill aims to enhance police data collection and accountability about use of force by law enforcement officers and police officers. By passing this legislation, we can keep the public informed and hold officers who abuse their power accountable.

With this bill, we are able to ensure liability and culpability from those who have been trusted to protect our communities, by altering a reporting requirement that applies to law enforcement or police officers who are involved in the use of force incidents in the line of duty. Enforcing this requirement by January 1st, 2024, will allow time for law enforcement agencies to establish the necessary infrastructure to publish on their public website the accumulated data pertaining to the use of force by police officers as required by this bill.

As you know, police reform has been a long-debated topic in our country, in Maryland, and on this committee. Even as we become more and more accustomed to hearing about lethal police encounters with unarmed individuals, they, unfortunately, remain common occurrences. By the end of January, seven people in the United States had already been fatally shot by police officers while unarmed. Enacting this bill will help protect Marylanders against these kinds of tragedies by establishing transparency in use of force data and making officers answerable to the public.

NICOLE A. WILLIAMS, ESQ.  
*Legislative District 22*  
Prince George's County

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Judiciary Committee

Chair, Public Safety Subcommittee

Vice Chair, Prince George's  
County House Delegation



*Annapolis Office*  
The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 207  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
301-858-3058 · 410-841-3058  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3058  
Nicole.Williams@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Law enforcement agencies currently utilize the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) to collect use of force data, however, the UCR is unreliable because agencies participate voluntarily and are not required to submit reports, resulting in large gaps in the data. Allowing law enforcement to have sole authority over reporting their own misconduct sends the message that their actions are above the law and hurts public trust.

The lack of required use of force reporting also contributes to difficulty in devising and implementing additional police reforms. At the national and state level, use of force data is severely lacking, but that data is essential for identifying areas in need of improvement and carrying out effective interventions.

This bill will go a long way toward protecting the rights of the public and preserving the integrity of state law enforcement. Furthermore, it will help us to move forward with confidence as we continue to improve our state law enforcement agencies and their relationships with local communities through well-informed, data-driven action.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to give a favorable report on House Bill 585.

Sincerely,

*Nicole A. Williams, Esq.*

Delegate Nicole A. Williams, Esq