



**State Law Enforcement
Officers Labor Alliance**
542 Ritchie Highway
Severna Park, Maryland 21146



March 9, 2023

Delegate Luke Clippinger
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
101 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB 1077 Department of State Police - Reproducing or Distributing Logo for
Commercial Purposes – Prohibition – OPPOSE

Dear Chair Clippinger:

The State Law Enforcement Labor Alliance (SLEOLA) is the exclusive representative for 1,757 active state law enforcement officers. We are writing in Opposition to House Bill 1077. While we understand that the intent of this bill is to address the unfortunate misuse of challenge coins, the scope of HB 1077 is significantly broader and includes use of the Shield, Badge, and Shoulder Patch.

The Shield, Badge and Shoulder Patch are each used in many forms. Units within the Maryland State Police make their own polo shirts at the employee's own expense with the Shield and unit initials embroidered below. These shirts reflect the unit and employee pride.

Retirement plaques are routinely made with utmost respect by woodworking CNC businesses which display Trooper and retiree pride. Fundraisers and charity events often display logos, and countless items have been made at graduation to display Trooper pride including personalized bags, water bottles, clothing and office items.

HB 1077 would not only discourage all personalized items, but producing these items could lead to termination and up to two years in jail. While written approval from the Secretary of State Police is contemplated under the proposal, in practice seeking and receiving that approval is not feasible.

For these and other reasons, we request an Unfavorable Report on House Bill 1077.

Sincerely,

David Lewis
Vice President

cc: Members, House Judiciary Committee