

WILLIAM VALENTINE  
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DEPUTY MINORITY WHIP

Judiciary Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

House Bill 682 – Public Safety – Law Enforcement Agencies – Positive Community Feedback

Dear Chairman Clippinger, Vice-Chairman Moon and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to request a favorable report for House Bill 682 – Public Safety – Law Enforcement Agencies – Positive Community Feedback. This bill would require law enforcement agencies to maintain a record of positive community feedback for all law enforcement officers within their respective agency. This bill directs the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to develop a uniform process to collect this feedback from members of the public. These records would be subject to public inspection in accordance with the Maryland Public Information Act.

In recent years, the Maryland General Assembly has spent a significant amount of time and effort on making changes to Maryland law so the public could be more informed about the records of law enforcement officers. I believe this bill is consistent with those efforts. This bill contains provisions which would create an accessible and uniform process that can be implemented by all law enforcement agencies in Maryland. While it is possible for law enforcement agencies to implement such a process on their own, this bill ensures that all law enforcement agencies in Maryland have this information on file and available if requested by a member of the public. A uniform standard would make it easier for these agencies to implement this initiative and create a transparent process.

Allowing positive community feedback about an officer to be collected, released, and reviewed would provide a complete picture of an officer's employment history and reputation. In law enforcement, an officer's future depends on his or her reputation. This bill would help provide a more comprehensive picture of the officer's work. These public safety professionals are the men and women who protect our families, businesses and communities. Assuring our law enforcement officers that their full record would be available if their reputation or integrity is questioned or challenged will be beneficial to recruitment, retention, and the future of policing in our local communities and throughout Maryland.

This bill is cross-filed with Senate Bill – 0069. I respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 682.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Delegate William Valentine".  
Delegate William Valentine