

**STEPHANIE SMITH**  
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Baltimore City

HOUSE PARLIAMENTARIAN

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Baltimore City Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB 853 Baltimore City – Control Over Powers of Police Commissioner**

**Bill Hearing: March 7, 2023 at 1:00pm, Judiciary Committee**

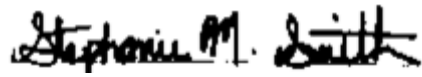
**Chairman Luke Clippinger and Vice Chair David Moon and esteemed members of the  
Judiciary Committee,**

The State of Maryland has oversight over the Baltimore City Police Department therefore Baltimore City does not have direct control over their own department that protects its citizens. Any change that wants to be implemented needs to go to the State instead of asking the Baltimore City Council who is the oversight of the city.

House Bill 853 intends to allow the Police Commissioner and the Baltimore City Council to have oversight over the Police Department instead of asking for the State to act which then takes longer to enact any changes. The first Police Commissioner was introduced in the 1970s and this bill authorizes the Police commissioner to allow their position to implement change when needed.

This bill will allow Baltimore City to take care of Baltimore City affairs. For these reasons, I strongly urge a favorable report on House Bill 853.

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' and a distinct 'M' and 'Smith'.

Delegate Stephanie M. Smith