



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

March 26, 2024

Committee: House Appropriations

Bill: SB 380 - Police Recruitment and Retention Workgroup

Position: Favorable

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports Senate Bill 380, which establishes a Police Recruitment and Retention Workgroup to address the significant recruitment challenges and the decline in police officer retention statewide.

More than half of our municipal members (89 out of 160 MML members) have police departments. Police officer recruitment and retention has impacted every one of them, especially in the last few years. As the costs and risks to operate a police agency continue to rise, the issue of officer compensation is of the utmost importance; both in terms of running an efficient and effective municipal public safety program but also finding and developing the right officers.

The workgroup established in SB 380, and its two seats dedicated to municipal police representatives, is an appropriate vehicle to provide much needed information on policies and trends that municipal police agencies can use to continue providing critical public safety services. For these reasons, the League respectfully requests that the committee provide a favorable report on Senate Bill 380.

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