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BILL NO.: **SB 380**

TITLE: **Police Recruitment and Retention Workgroup**

SPONSOR: **Senator West**

COMMITTEE: **Judicial Proceedings**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **February 1, 2024**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 380 – Police Recruitment and Retention Workgroup. This legislation would establish a Police Recruitment and Retention Workgroup tasked with identifying and examining the issues of declining recruitment and retention of police officers within the State. Baltimore County would suggest an amendment to reduce the number of members of the workgroup and to include an official from the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission. A final suggested amendment would be to focus on the span and goals of the workgroup, from those listed on Page 3 of the bill.

As with most police agencies in the County, Baltimore County continues to face challenges in attracting and retaining highly-qualified applicants to fill police officer vacancies. These vacancies are certain to have an impact upon our communities and public safety as a whole. The workgroup established by this bill would create a group to provide a thorough analysis of the factors contributing to recruitment and retention issues. Input from experts in the field of law enforcement, training and recruitment experts, stakeholders, and the public will determine the systematic and cultural issues which inhibit those from seeking careers in law enforcement. This would be a step in the right direction to attract high valued individuals into a law enforcement career.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 380 from the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov