



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

TESTIMONY

February 21, 2024

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings

Bill: SB 608 - Public Safety - Police Accountability - Time Limit for Filing Administrative Charges

Position: Favorable with Amendment

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports Senate Bill 608, with an important amendment, which will assist municipal police agencies more effectively comply with the timelines to conduct an investigation established in the police accountability law. This language mirrors the amendment to be offered by the sponsor of the bill and supported by the chiefs and sheriffs association.

There are several circumstances when the initial timeline for a law enforcement agency to complete an investigation into officer misconduct and the administrative charging committee's disposition of the case are difficult to meet or would result in conflict with another investigation. The bill and amendment set out two specific scenarios that are subject to a different start date from when the investigation must conclude: Alleged officer misconduct that does not require review by an administrative charging committee and alleged officer misconduct that reasonably appears to be subject to criminal investigation.

Adding nuanced timelines for these specific scenarios, law enforcement agencies are more likely to meet the deadlines, provide better investigatory evidence, and keep from running afoul of other legal proceedings.

Proposed amendment, mirrors sponsor amendment:

On page 2, in line 8, after "DATE" insert "THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY BECAME AWARE"

The provisions of SB 608 should assist municipal police agencies better comply with the timelines established in law to conduct investigations into officer misconduct. For this reason, the League respectfully requests that the committee provide Senate Bill 608 with a favorable report, with the sponsor amendment, cited above.



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