

2024 SB 7 -Positive Community Feedback - FOP Suppo

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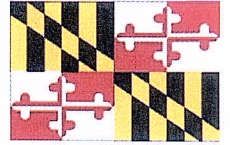
Position: FAV



CLYDE BOATWRIGHT
STATE PRESIDENT

Maryland State Lodge
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

8302 COVE ROAD, BALTIMORE, MD 21222



KENNY SCHUBERT
SECRETARY

EARL KRATSCH
TREASURER

January 23, 2024

SB7 - Public Safety – Law Enforcement Agencies – Positive Community Feedback

Dear Chairman Smith and Distinguished Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

The Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 7 - Public Safety – Law Enforcement Agencies – Positive Community Feedback.**

This bill will require the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to develop a uniform citizen positive community feedback process and further require that each law enforcement agency shall adopt this process and maintain a record of positive community feedback for all law enforcement officers within the agency. These records would be subject to public inspection in accordance with the Maryland Public Information Act.

Over the last few years of police reform, a lot has been done to make the filing of complaints easier, and the inspection of records related to those complaints open to public inspection. HB 682 would allow for the same to occur for positive feedback that a citizen would like to share about an officer. This would make for a more accurate picture to be realized of an officer. We currently are in a time where officers are leaving the profession in record numbers as many feel they are not supported by the public. This would allow members of the public to express positive feedback. A **FAVORABLE** vote on **SB 7** will send a positive and powerful message to police officers in the State.

On behalf of the more than 20,000 Courageous Men and Women of the Maryland Fraternal Order of Police we thank you for your support and ask for your **FAVORABLE** vote on **Senate Bill 7 - Public Safety – Law Enforcement Agencies – Positive Community Feedback.**

Angelo L. Consoli Jr,
2nd Vice President, FOP, Maryland State Lodge
President, FOP Lodge 89, Prince George's County

CalvertCounty_FAV_SB0007.pdf

Uploaded by: Earl Hance

Position: FAV



**CALVERT COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

175 Main Street
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678
410-535-1600 • 301-855-1243
www.calvertcountymd.gov

Board of Commissioners
Mark C. Cox Sr.
Catherine M. Grasso
Earl F. Hance
Mike Hart
Todd Ireland

January 23, 2024

The Honorable Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

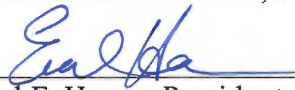
Re: SB0007 – Public Safety - Law Enforcement Agencies - Positive Community Feedback

Senator Smith:

The Board of County Commissioners for Calvert County writes to **SUPPORT SB0007**. We find it is as important for the public be able to voice their praise for a job well done as it is to express concerns; and afford the public access to those records to enhance transparency and civil discussions on different perspectives.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact County Administrator Julian M. Willis at 410-535-1600, extension 2202 or County Attorney John Norris at 410-535-1600, extension 2566. Thank you for your kind consideration of our position regarding this important Bill.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND



Earl F. Hance, President



Catherine M. Grasso, Vice President



Mark C. Cox Sr.



Mike Hart



Todd Ireland

cc: The Honorable Senator Jack Bailey

SenatorBailey_FAV_SB7.pdf

Uploaded by: Jack Bailey

Position: FAV

JACK BAILEY
Legislative District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Budget & Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 401
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3673 · 301-858-3673
800-492-7122 Ext. 3673
Jack.Bailey@senate.state.md.us

District Office
Dorsey Professional Park
23680 Three Notch Road, Unit 101
Hollywood, Maryland 20636
240-309-4238

January 24, 2024

Senate Bill 7 – Public Safety – Law Enforcement Agencies – Positive Community Feedback

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 7 – Public Safety – Law Enforcement Agencies – Positive Community Feedback. Senate Bill 7 would require law enforcement agencies to maintain a record of positive community feedback for all law enforcement officers within the agency. This 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.

Over the past several years, this Committee has devoted a significant amount of time and effort on making changes to Maryland law so that the public could be more informed about the record of police officers. I believe that this bill is consistent with those efforts. This bill contains provisions which would create a simple, accessible, and uniform process that can be implemented by all law enforcement agencies in the State. 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 ready if requested. A uniform standard would make it easier for these agencies to implement this initiative and create a fair process. This bill also creates the exemption to the Maryland Public Information Act necessary to make the release of this part of the officer's personnel file permissible under State law.

Allowing positive reports and information about an officer to be collected, released, and reviewed would provide a clearer look at an officer's whole reputation. In law enforcement, an officer's future depends on their reputation and character. This bill would help to provide a total picture of the officer's work by allowing easy access to all records, positive and negative. These are our first responders, the men and women who protect our families and our communities. Assuring our law enforcement officers that their full record would be available if their reputation is questioned or challenged will be beneficial to recruitment, retention, and the future of policing in our communities and State.

This bill is identical to Senate Bill 69 from last year as it passed this Committee and the full Senate. I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 7. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey

MTA Favorable SB 7 1-24-24.pdf

Uploaded by: Jenna Sublett

Position: FAV



M a r y l a n d Troopers Association



INCORPORATED 1979

January 24, 2024

The Honorable Will Smith, Chairman and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

RE: SB 7 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Agencies - Positive Community Feedback

POSITION: SUPPORT

The MTA supports SB 7 which creates the standard for positive community feedback for law enforcement to be included in records that are not considered personnel.

Troopers devote their lives to serving the people of Maryland. They come in contact with the best of society, and sometimes, the worst. They handle their jobs with integrity and do so much good that oftentimes, is unrecognized. This legislation fixes that. This legislation allows for the state to adopt a uniform process that will allow Marylanders to easily post positive feedback. The Maryland Troopers Association greatly appreciates the thought put into this and would urge the committee for a favorable report for SB7.

Thank you,

Brian Blubaugh
President
Maryland Troopers Association

Member of National Troopers Coalition
1300 REISTERSTOWN ROAD, PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND 21208 (410) 653-3885 1-800-TROOPER
E-mail: info@mdtroopers.org