

THOMAS S. HUTCHINSON  
*Legislative District 37B*  
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot,  
and Wicomico Counties



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 308  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3582 · 301-858-3582  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3582  
Tom.Hutchinson@house.state.md.us

Health and Government Operations  
Committee

*Subcommittees*

Public Health and  
Minority Health Disparities

Health Occupations and  
Long-Term Care

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB 589 Dorchester County – County Applicants – Polygraph Examination**

**Judiciary Committee**

**Thursday, February 29, 2024**

**What This Bill Does**

**HB 589** allows for employers to require polygraphs for applicants of certain positions within Dorchester County’s Department of Emergency Services and Department of Corrections. These positions include applicants for paramedics or emergency medical technicians, 9-1-1 center dispatchers, and correctional officers from the County Detention Center. These changes only apply to Dorchester County, following the precedent set by the bill outlining specific county positions that are exempt to polygraph prohibition.

**Why We Need This Bill**

The current Maryland Law Code *already provides exemptions* that allow employers to require or request polygraphs for employment applications. These positions include examples such as correctional officers, paramedics, and emergency medical technician. This precedent is simply being reflected by adding certain positions within Dorchester County to the Law Code. It’s important that Dorchester County can conduct polygraphs to verify that newly employed individuals are trustworthy with the authority and access to information that their new positions are provided. These polygraph prohibition exemptions allow for greater quality of hires and raises the standards of public service members.

We respectfully ask the Committee for a favorable vote on **HB 589**.