

Testimony Against SB0972

Honorable Delegates

Please enter an unfavorable report against SB0972.

I am against:

- Increasing from three to five the membership of the Board of License Commissioners for Anne Arundel County;
- altering the eligibility requirements for Board membership;
- requiring the Board to adopt and publish a certain ethics policy;
- prohibiting the Board from using certain information as a factor in determining whether to issue or renew a license; and
- requiring the Board to submit a report on the racial breakdown of the disciplinary actions taken by the Board to the General Assembly each year.

This is a bill that affects Anne Arundel County, but is not sponsored by the entire delegation. Based on this bill one could infer that the sponsor believes the Board as currently structured is not doing a good job, is unethical, and discriminates. The bill wants to

- increase membership by 67 percent
- create an ethics policy
- adjust the application/renewal form to capture racial information on new and renewing applicants, but not use that information in making decisions
- use that new information to submit a report on the racial breakdown of the disciplinary actions taken by the Board to the General Assembly each year

Reading the fiscal and policy note, the current law requires the three members to be individuals of high character, integrity, and recognized business capacity. Yet, because the bill wants the board to create an ethics policy and summarize its disciplinary actions by race categories, one could infer that the sponsor disagrees that the current members meet the high character and integrity requirements.

I did not see anything in the bill that states these new requirements are needed because of complaints about unethical or discriminating actions or that this bill wants to make Anne Arundel County compliant with other counties who have similar provisions. It would have been informative if the sponsor had submitted written testimony instead of just testifying orally so one could know his motivation.

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