

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee**,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore. We are also working in collaboration with Campaign for Justice, Safety, & Jobs (CJSJ). I am a resident of District 45. **I am testifying in opposition to HB0238 / SB0533: Public Safety - Police Accountability - Time Limit for Filing Administrative Charges.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

This bill would **delay the review of misconduct to an unreasonable degree** – perhaps even indefinitely – as criminal charges can take months or years to play out. Further, it places the determination to pursue criminal investigation with the law enforcement agency whose officers are under investigation, giving the agency the power to delay any civilian investigation of the alleged misconduct if it suits them.

Ensuring timely investigations of alleged officer misconduct is critical both to preserving officer morale as well as building community trust.¹ The vague language in HB0238 / SB0533 **allows for far too broad an application and the potential for abuse** if certain cases deemed “related” to complaints of alleged police misconduct are deliberately stalled or placed on the stet docket. This bill could also potentially hurt police officers if they are falsely accused of misconduct. If the complaint is “related” to a criminal case, they would be stuck in limbo with no way to remove or resolve the complaint.

Despite the bill’s name, **HB0238 / SB0533 does not promote or protect public safety**. It would, in fact, delay police accountability and discourage public trust in law enforcement. It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to **oppose HB0238 / SB0533: Public Safety - Police Accountability - Time Limit for Filing Administrative Charges**.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Brytani Fraser
Baltimore, MD 21214
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

¹ Second Comprehensive Reassessment, Baltimore Consent Decree Monitoring Team; December 22, 2022; Page 35;
<https://htv-prod-media.s3.amazonaws.com/files/second-comprehensive-reassessment-1671746024.pdf>