



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

## TESTIMONY

February 25, 2025

**Committee:** House Judiciary

**Bill:** HB 885 - Public Safety - Police Accountability - Investigation Records Relating to Unfounded and Exonerated Complaints

**Position:** Favorable

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports House Bill 885, which requires the removal of all “investigation records” relating to a complaint of misconduct from a police officer’s personnel record three years after an administrative charging committee or trial board issues a finding that the complaint is unfounded or exonerated.

The removal of such records protects the privacy of police officers who have been cleared of wrongdoing. If complaints are found to be unfounded or the officer is exonerated, retaining such records could unfairly tarnish an officer’s reputation and career, and could lead to morale issues. Officers might feel discouraged or unfairly targeted by records of complaints, even if those complaints did not result in disciplinary action. Removal could help with recruitment and retention by offering more job security and reducing stress on officers.

This proposal could also help police departments manage records more efficiently and reduce administrative burdens. Police departments are often responsible for handling large amounts of paperwork; it is more efficient to focus on cases where the complaints are substantiated, rather than keeping records of those that were found to be unsubstantiated or exonerated.

For these reasons, the League respectfully requests that the Committee provide House Bill 885 with a favorable report. For more information, please contact Angelica Bailey Thupari, Director of Advocacy and Public Affairs, at [angelicab@mdmunicipal.org](mailto:angelicab@mdmunicipal.org) or (443) 756-0071. Thank you for your consideration.

*The Maryland Municipal League uses its collective voice to advocate, empower and protect the interests of our 160 local governments members and elevates local leadership, delivers impactful solutions for our communities, and builds an inclusive culture for the 2 million Marylanders we serve.*