



TESTIMONY TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HB 537 – Police Discipline – Order to Show Cause

POSITION: Oppose

BY: Linda Kohn, President

DATE: February 25, 2025

The League of Women Voters supports a criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, transparent, and that fosters public trust at all stages.

HB 537 seeks to authorize a police officer who is being investigated for misconduct to interrupt those investigative proceedings by filing a claim in the state circuit court contending that certain rights are being violated.

The bill calls for a procedure that is antithetical to the process established in the [Maryland Police Accountability Act \(MPAA\) of 2021](#). In the MPAA's disciplinary protocol, the accused must go through the entire administrative process before appealing their decision to a court and cannot interrupt the process to complain to a court that one or more of their rights has been violated. It is unclear why an exception should be made in this instance.

We urge an unfavorable report on HB 537.