



**Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services**  
**Office of the Secretary**

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**BILL: HOUSE BILL 1361**

**POSITION: OPPOSITION**

**EXPLANATION:** HB 1361 requires the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to establish a uniform, standardized report writing system for all law enforcement agencies in the State within 18 months after its implementation.

**COMMENTS:**

- The mission and purpose of the Police Training and Standards Commission (PTSC) is to establish, regulate, and ensure compliance of police officer certifications and training standards for the 16,000 police officers that work in Maryland. House Bill 1361 adds new responsibilities and oversight of a massive and complex technological endeavor that involves establishing and maintaining a standardized report writing system for all law enforcement agencies in Maryland.
- With the exception of the training component, the requirements of HB 1361 are not compatible with the current powers and duties of the Commission. The primary function of the PTSC is to certify police officers and law enforcement training entities. This bill expands the scope of operations requiring PTSC to develop a new infrastructure to oversee and maintain a records management system (RMS) which will need additional positions to meet all of the requirements outlined in HB 1361.
- A minimum of ten new positions would be required as well as dedicated resources from other State agencies to support the specific information technology needs. The additional positions needed would be critical to the creation of the newly required "compliance monitoring unit" to audit all 156 law enforcement agencies to ensure initial and ongoing compliance, implementation and refresher training, and IT support and functionality of the new system.
- HB 1361 requires the PTSC to use the Maryland Automated Accident Reporting System (MAARS) as a model for the new reporting system. The Maryland Department of State Police (MDSP) retired the paper-to-electronic MAARS system over a decade ago, replacing it with the modernized Automated Crash Reporting Systems (ACRS). Given its

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MAARS-improved scope and technology framework, ACRS serves as the best cost model available.

- The Department is unable to use or replicate ACRS as a statewide incident reporting system due to its current limitations. ACRS was only designed to capture vehicle crashes. The required RMS within HB 1361 must account for every need of 156 law enforcement agencies, and county/municipal governments. Such a system on the market is currently unavailable for purchase.
- DPSCS would have to build a brand new system, maintain the system on a yearly basis, and establish an IT help desk for police and the public to meet the bill's requirements. The Department estimates this endeavor to cost approximately \$200 million with implementation projected for 2030 without delays.
- Finally, HB 1361 is an unfunded mandate.

**CONCLUSION:** For these reasons, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully requests the Committee vote **UNFAVORABLE** on House Bill 1361.