



# CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

**Sean Flaherty, Councilmember**

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Judiciary Committee  
Maryland General Assembly House of Delegates  
100 Taylor Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

RE: Testimony in Opposition to House Bill HB0635 titled “Motor Vehicles - Secondary Enforcement and Admissibility of Evidence”

Chairman Clippinger and Honorary Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you all for letting me provide written testimony, I regret that I could not be in person in Annapolis to provide oral testimony. I am writing in opposition to HB0635. I believe this bill is detrimental not only to law enforcement in Maryland but our public safety goals in the city of Hagerstown, Maryland. This bill would hinder law enforcement from doing their jobs – right now there is a shortage of police officers nationwide. HB0635 would hurt retention and recruitment in our city and state. Hagerstown has had police shortages along with many other jurisdictions and our state. We must create a safe, welcoming environment for individuals who choose to pursue law enforcement as a career and back them publicly as well. The overwhelmingly majority of residents oppose the harmful defund the police movement that was a result of the death of George Floyd, and many communities have suffered ever since with ever increasing police retirements and vacancies.

The Maryland Police Bill of Rights, also known as the Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights (LEOBR) was a state law that provided protections to police officers. In April 2021, Maryland became the first state to repeal LEOBR.

What did LEOBR do?

- a. Governed the disciplinary process for police officers
- b. Gave police officers special rights that other people did not have.
- c. Made it difficult for communities to investigate misconduct.

Why was LEOBR repealed?



- a. Some say the LEOBR gave police offices too many special rights.
- b. Others say LEOBR prevented communities from investigating misconduct.

What replaced the LEOBR?

- a. A new disciplinary process that requires local jurisdictions to create administrative charging committees
- b. The committees recommend whether an officer should be disciplined and what discipline should be applied.

Keeping all our communities safe is paramount for all the tax-paying residents of Hagerstown and Maryland. This is the government's job. I enjoyed and liked the Harford County Maryland's Sheriff's video highlighting the dangers if this bill is passed. Under this bill police would have no probable cause to stop cars for offenses such as driving with expired tags, failure to signal, broken taillights and so forth. This bill will unfairly harm police officers for simply doing their jobs and would make such evidence of secondary offenses not admissible in court. This bill is dangerous not just for Hagerstown but Maryland too. I ask that the Judiciary Committee not pass HB0635.

Thank You,

Sincerely,

Councilmember Sean Flaherty