

STEPHANIE SMITH  
*Legislative District 45*  
Baltimore City

Appropriations Committee

*Subcommittees*

Capital Budget

Chair, Education and Economic  
Development

Racing and Sports Facilities

Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee

Joint Committee on Children,  
Youth, and Families



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB503 Baltimore City Sheriff's Office- Collective Bargaining- Compensation**

Hearing: February 27, 2026, 1:00pm

Chair Melissa Wells, Vice Chair Kenneth Kerr

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

House Bill 503 is a simple bill that closes a technical loophole in statute to make clear that during collective bargaining negotiations, members of the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office FOP Lodge 22 may bargain for salary, wages, and merit step increases.

While this may seem obvious, the current statutory language creates ambiguity. As a result, the parties have been forced to engage in a workaround process during negotiations that is confusing and inefficient for everyone involved.

This bill simply clarifies legislative intent. It ensures that the compensation elements typically negotiated in collective bargaining agreements are clearly authorized under law. It does not create new categories of bargaining, it aligns statute with practice and eliminates unnecessary procedural complications.

The Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 22, the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office, and the Mayor's Office are all here today in support of this bill. This is a collaborative measure with agreement among labor, management, and the City.

With that, I respectfully ask the Committee for a favorable report on House Bill 503.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie M. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Delegate Stephanie Smith