

MIKE MCKAY
Legislative District 1
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



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Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

Joint Committees

Administrative, Executive,
and Legislative Review
Children, Youth, and Families
Program Open Space and Agricultural
Land Preservation

Senate Bill 746 – Police Discipline - Municipal Law Enforcement Agencies - Suspension Pending Appeal
of Trial Board Decision

February 24, 2026

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express strong support for Senate Bill 746, *Police Discipline – Municipal Law Enforcement Agencies – Suspension Pending Appeal of Trial Board Decision*. This legislation provides municipal police chiefs with the authority to suspend an officer without pay during the pendency of an appeal from a trial board decision under §3–106 of the Public Safety Article. By granting this authority, SB 746 ensures that municipalities can maintain public trust and operational integrity while disciplinary matters are fully resolved. Importantly, the bill includes a safeguard guaranteeing full back pay for officers who prevail on appeal, striking a fair balance between accountability and due process.

This measure addresses a critical gap in current law by allowing chiefs to act decisively in cases where serious misconduct has been substantiated yet appeals remain ongoing. Without this authority, municipalities risk prolonged uncertainty and potential liability, undermining confidence in law enforcement oversight. SB 746 promotes transparency, reinforces community trust, and aligns with best practices for police discipline while protecting officers' rights.

I thank you for your time and I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike McKay".

Senator Mike McKay
Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland
Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties