



State of Maryland
Department of State Police
Government Affairs Unit
Annapolis Office (410) 260-6100

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

DATE: February 17, 2026

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 516 **POSITION:** Letter of Information

BILL TITLE: Law Enforcement - Protective Body Armor - Requirements and Reporting

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

This legislation seeks to restrict a law enforcement agency from assigning a law enforcement officer to duties other than administrative duties unless the officer is issued protective body armor. This proposal further requires a law enforcement agency to issue only protective body armor that meets the current National Institute of Justice Ballistic Resistance of Body Armor standards. A law enforcement agency shall replace a law enforcement officer's protective body armor prior to the body armor's expiration date.

The Department of Maryland State Police's (MDSP) standard procedure relating to issuance and replacement of protective body armor takes in to account that the standard expiration of this equipment is 5 years as per manufacturer recommendations. One year prior to expiration, the Department requires troopers to report to our Quartermaster Division for replacement vest fittings. Troopers receive their new armor prior to the five-year mark.

In accordance with the Department's recent agreement with the bargaining unit, SLEOLA, MDSP inspects body armor monthly. Any body armor that is identified as defective or unserviceable is replaced. MDSP maintains a stock of extra vests for immediate replacement should it be necessary.

The Maryland Department of State Police respectfully urges the Committee to consider the information contained in this letter while deliberating on Senate Bill 516.