

Testimony in support of SB0533 - Frederick County

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

SB0533_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
02/17/2026
Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703-7134

TESTIMONY ON SB#0533 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Frederick County - Sheriff – Salary

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0533, **Frederick County - Sheriff – Salary**

In 2025, Maryland deputy sheriff salaries vary by county, with starting salaries often ranging from roughly \$53,000 to over \$100,000 for experienced officers in high-cost areas. Major metropolitan areas like Prince George's County and Baltimore offer higher competitive rates (\$70k–\$107k+), while suburban counties like Frederick and Carroll offer significant, legally negotiated pay adjustments.¹

As a resident of Frederick County, I have closely followed the debates over the last few years on the salary for the sheriff. The controversy over the conduct of the current occupant of that office has had negative effects on that pay rate. This bill is a compromise among members of the Frederick County Delegation, and I now support its goals.

This bill alters the annual salary of the Sheriff of Frederick County to be \$175,000 for calendar year 2027; and alters the annual salary of the Sheriff of Frederick County to be 82.5% of the State's Attorney for Frederick County's annual salary including any increments and salary adjustments authorized under certain provisions of law for calendar year 2028 and each subsequent calendar year.

This bill concentrates on the office and not the holder of that office and should be passed based on that consideration.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0533.

¹ Google AI Search “sheriffs salaries in maryland counties 2025”

Written Testimony SB533.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Karen Lewis Young

Position: FAV

KAREN LEWIS YOUNG
Legislative District 3
Frederick County

Budget and Taxation Committee

Chair
Pensions Subcommittee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

The Honorable Chair Smith
The Honorable Vice Chair Waldstreicher
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate of Maryland

February 17th, 2026

SB533: Frederick County – Sheriff – Salary

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

Senate Bill 533: Frederick County – Sheriff – Salary is a local bill that will increase the position of Sheriff in Frederick County's salary for the first time in 19 years. Similar legislation updating the salaries of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, and Carroll County Sheriffs was passed in 2024. Moreover, this bill has passed this committee during each of the past four sessions. This bill provides the Sheriff with a necessary raise to reflect the increased responsibilities of the position and the needs of today's economy.

Additionally, this bill will also ensure that the income for the position of Sheriff remains standard within the law enforcement and criminal justice sector. By tying the Sheriff's salary to that of the Frederick State's Attorney at a rate of 82.5%, it will also remove the need for future legislative action to increase the Sheriff's salary.

This bill will not go into effect until after the upcoming election. I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Lewis Young".

Senator Karen Lewis Young

SB 533_ Frederick County - Sheriff - Salary_ Ple

Uploaded by: Trudy Tibbals

Position: FWA

SB 533: Frederick County - Sheriff - Salary: Please vote **TO SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing in support of **SB 533** and respectfully urge a **Favorable with Amendments** decision to ensure fair and reasonable compensation for Maryland's sheriffs.

Specifically, I support an amendment establishing that the **Frederick County Sheriff's salary be set at no less than the Carroll County Sheriff's salary of \$191,078.10 in 2026**. Frederick and Carroll counties are comparable in **population size, organizational complexity, public safety demands, and resident makeup**, and their sheriffs carry similar responsibilities and operational scope.

Compensation for constitutional officers should reflect the **scale, complexity, and accountability of the office**, as well as regional parity. Setting Frederick County's sheriff below similarly situated counties creates an unjustified disparity that undermines equity, recruitment, and retention for one of the most critical public safety leadership roles in the state.

A parity-based amendment promotes **consistency, fairness, and transparency** in how sheriff salaries are established statewide. It also recognizes the increasing demands placed on sheriffs to manage personnel, budgets, detention operations, court security, and community safety in rapidly growing jurisdictions like Frederick County.

SB 533, with this amendment, would better align compensation with responsibility while respecting legislative oversight and maintaining public confidence that pay decisions are made rationally and equitably—not arbitrarily.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support **SB 533 with a Favorable Report WITH Amendments** to ensure the Frederick County Sheriff's salary is set at a minimum equal to that of Carroll County.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals

SB0533_Frederick_Cnty_Sheriff_Salary_UNFAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: UNF



TESTIMONY FOR SB0533
Frederick County - Sheriff - Salary

Bill Sponsor: Frederick County Senators

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting:

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante

Position: **UNFAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony to request an unfavorable report for SB0533.

As a Frederick County resident, I am appalled that the Frederick County Delegation is attempting to raise the salary for Sheriff Jenkins. His tenure as Sheriff in Frederick County has resulted in several lawsuits for poor policing that have cost the county over \$225,000 in the past several years. After the last lawsuit, Sheriff Jenkins was forced to publicly apologize for the poor policing and poor training that caused the lawsuit.

The average **police chief salary** at City of Frederick was \$187,274, which is 37 percent higher than the average salary for this job in Maryland, and 63 percent higher than the national average for this job .

Why should we want to pay Sheriff Jenkins MORE of our taxpayer dollars? He would be making just shy of what the police chief of Frederick City is making, and that is 37% too high for the same job in other places in Maryland. At this point, Sheriff Jenkins owes the residents of this county for misusing their trust and their taxpayer dollars. The last thing we need is to pay him extra for that.

I do not support this bill and recommend a **UNFAVORABLE** report in committee.

SB0533_FCSheriffSalary_OPPOSE_SDemiray.pdf

Uploaded by: Sonia Demiray

Position: UNF

SB 0533 - OPPOSE
Frederick County - Sheriff - Salary
Judicial Proceedings
February 17, 2026

As a resident of Frederick County, I respectfully oppose increasing the Sheriff's salary from \$125,000 to \$175,000 by 2027 for two reasons:

- 1) A 40 % raise is extraordinary and a salary of \$175,000 is excessive and luxurious.
- 2) The current Sheriff, Mr. Charles Austin Jenkins ("Chuck"), has been the "chief of law enforcement" of Frederick County for 20 years. During this time, he has abused his power and been involved in scandals, including weapons smuggling (headlines and links below). This behavior by a law enforcement officer should not be rewarded with a raise, let alone 40%.

- **Charges alleging abuse of power show need to end 287(g) immigration program**
<https://www.aclu-md.org/news/charges-alleging-abuse-power-show-need-end-287g-immigration-program/>

- **Frederick County Sheriff and Gun Dealer Indicted for scheme to illegally acquire machineguns**
<https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/frederick-county-sheriff-and-gun-dealer-indicted-scheme-illegally-acquire-machineguns>

- **Jenkins retakes control over Frederick County Sheriff's Office despite federal indictment**
<https://www.wmar2news.com/local/frederick-sheriff-takes-back-control-despite-being-under-federal-indictment>

I respectfully request an unfavorable report on SB 0533.

Sonia Demiray
Resident of Petersville
Frederick County, MD
202-744-2958

SB 533 LOI FINAL FCG OCE FINAL.pdf

Uploaded by: Jessica Fitzwater

Position: INFO



JESSICA FITZWATER
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

February 17, 2026

Chair Senator William Smith
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Vice Chair Senator Jeff Waldstreicher
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

As the Frederick County Executive, I am writing to provide information regarding SB 533 - Frederick County - Sheriff – Salary. SB533 proposes that the Sheriff’s salary be aligned with the Frederick County State’s Attorney’s salary at a rate of 82.5%, with yearly inflationary increases. This would raise the Sheriff’s salary from \$125,000 to \$187,275 in the next four-year term.

This letter intends to provide context regarding the salaries of Frederick County employees during the consideration of SB 533. The salaries for the County Executive and Council are set by the County Council with recommendations provided by the Compensation Review Commission. This review is required by state law and the Frederick County Charter every four years.

The Frederick County Government pay scale accounts for duties under the office, the number of employees supervised, and the required qualifications for the job. Frederick County Director grade salaries range from \$98,312 to \$258,000. Based on the scope of the department (405 employees), the Sheriff’s Office is most comparable to the Divisions of Fire and Rescue Services (636 employees), Parks and Recreation (701 employees), and Public Works (251 employees). The starting salary for the director position of those divisions is \$131,406, with the average salary being \$156,000.

This legislation would put the Sheriff’s salary at the top of our pay scale, behind only a few other Division Directors. Similarly, attached are the FY25 Step and Grade Pay Scales for Uniformed Corrections officers and uniformed law enforcement officers.

Finally, as the County provides the funding for the Sheriff’s Office salaries, legislation to adjust the salary should consider the County’s fiscal calendar. Ideally, the effective date for a salary increase should be July 1 or January 1, to best align with the County’s budget cycle.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information regarding this proposed legislation. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office.

Sincerely,



Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive