

**LOS SB0397.docx (1).pdf**

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DAWN D. GILE  
CHAIR



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY DELEGATION

January 29, 2026

The Honorable William Smith  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

The Anne Arundel County Senators met and voted on January 29th, 2026, to support SB0397, Anne Arundel County - Sheriff - Appointment of Majors.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dawn D. Gile".

Dawn D. Gile  
Chair, Anne Arundel County Senate  
Delegation

**Sen. Gile Written Testimony\_SB397.docx (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Dawn Gile

Position: FAV

DAWN D. GILE  
Legislative District 33  
Anne Arundel County

Finance Committee

Chair

Anne Arundel County  
Senate Delegation



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## THE SENATE OF MARYLAND ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of SB 397 - Anne Arundel County - Sheriff - Appointment of Majors

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

SB 397 directs the Sheriff of Anne Arundel County to appoint three majors at a salary determined by the County Council of Anne Arundel County. This legislation will assist the growth of the Sheriff's Office and provide improved community support.

### **Background**

The current selection process requires the Sheriff to fill senior Executive Command Staff positions through a promotional system that is heavily influenced by the Fraternal Order of Police, rather than driven by the operational needs of the office or the community it serves. This approach unnecessarily narrows the candidate pool and limits access to individuals with the specific skills, knowledge, and leadership experience required for these executive roles.

As a result, the Sheriff's ability to hold senior leaders accountable and address performance issues in a timely manner is constrained. The existing structure also restricts efforts to diversify the Executive Command Staff in ways that would better reflect the community, contributing to higher turnover and lower morale. Finally, the current promotional model can reinforce groupthink and inhibit innovation; incorporating broader experience and perspectives is essential to avoid strategic stagnation and to build a more effective, engaged workforce.

### **Solution**

SB 397 resolves these issues by authorizing and directing the Anne Arundel County Sheriff to appoint three majors.

### **Fiscal Impact**

A fiscal note is currently in preparation by the Department of Legislative Services.

### **Closing**

SB 397 is limited in scope, fiscally disciplined, and consistent with the intent of existing law. A letter of support has been submitted by the Anne Arundel County Senate Delegation.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 397.

**Bill 0397 Final.pdf**

Uploaded by: Everett Sesker

Position: FAV



Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office

SHERIFF EVERETT L. SESKER  
Chief Deputy James Williams  
8 Church Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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Dear Chairman Smith,  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Maryland Senate

I am writing to express my full support for Senate Bill 0397, which proposes adding three Major positions to the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office.

Under this proposal, these Majors will serve as Bureau Commanders overseeing the Bureau of Administration, the Bureau of Court Security, and the Bureau of Field Operations. As non-bargaining members of the Executive Command Staff, Majors will provide leadership independent of collective bargaining agreements, while Captains will serve as Assistant Commanders. This structure allows Lieutenants to transition into essential mid-level management roles, bridging the gap between executive leadership and rank-and-file employees.

The proposed appointment-based system will broaden our candidate pool and ensure leadership roles are filled by individuals with specialized skills and strategic mindsets. Selecting candidates based on merit, experience, and community needs will help diversify our command staff, strengthen community ties, and improve morale. Furthermore, the ability to recruit from external law enforcement agencies will introduce fresh perspectives and mitigate the risks of organizational groupthink.

The current structure, which relies on bargaining unit Lieutenants as Assistant Bureau Commanders, limits my ability to hold executive officers accountable. Effective leadership requires the authority to take swift corrective action to maintain professional standards. Establishing these expectations at the executive level will ensure accountability throughout the entire agency.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important legislation.  
Sincerely,

Sheriff Everett L. Sesker  
Office of the Sheriff, Anne Arundel County