

**SB 746 Letter of Support Feb 2026.pdf**

Uploaded by: Michael Faith

Position: FAV



**TOWN OF HANCOCK, MARYLAND**  
126 W. High St., Hancock, MD 21750



February 20, 2026

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

On behalf of the Town of Hancock, we respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of **Senate Bill 746**. This legislation addresses a real and costly gap in current law that disproportionately impacts small municipal police departments and the communities they serve.

SB 746 was introduced following a recent situation faced by the Town of Hancock, where the Town confronted the possibility of spending between \$10,000 and \$50,000 to continue paying salary and benefits to a police officer during the pendency of an appeal, even after a trial board had rendered a decision. For a small town with a limited operating budget, this level of unplanned expense is significant and unsustainable.

Under current law, a municipal police chief may suspend an officer without pay only in narrow circumstances. However, once a trial board issues a decision and an appeal is filed, municipalities are left with no clear authority to suspend without pay during the appeal process, even when the trial board has already determined that discipline is warranted. SB 746 provides a narrow, reasonable solution by allowing a municipal chief to suspend an officer without pay during the appeal period, while explicitly protecting the officer's rights by requiring full back pay if the officer ultimately prevails on appeal.

For small towns like Hancock, this is not about punishment, it is about fiscal responsibility and fairness. Municipalities must continue to fund public safety operations, infrastructure, and essential services while absorbing the financial risk of prolonged appeals. Unlike larger jurisdictions, small towns do not have the reserves to absorb these costs without cutting services or delaying critical investments.

The fiscal note correctly notes that the bill is expected to apply in a limited number of cases and is not anticipated to significantly impact municipal finances statewide.

However, when these cases do arise, the impact on a small town can be severe. SB 746 provides local governments with a responsible tool to manage that risk while maintaining due process protections for officers.



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Importantly, SB 746 preserves the integrity of Maryland's police accountability framework. It does not alter the trial board process, appeal rights, or evidentiary standards. It simply ensures that municipalities are not forced to bear significant financial burdens during an appeal period when a trial board decision has already been issued.

For the Town of Hancock, and for small municipalities across Maryland, SB 746 represents a practical, balanced fix to a real problem. We respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 746.

Thank you for your consideration and for your attention to the challenges faced by Maryland's small towns.

Sincerely,

Michael Faith, Town Manager

# **SB 746 - Written Testimony - JPR.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mike McKay

Position: FAV

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



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11 Bladen Street, Room 416  
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Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Executive Nominations Committee

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

*Cumberland Office*  
100N Mechanic Street  
Cumberland, Maryland 21502  
240-362-7040

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

*Williamsport Office*  
2N Conococheque Street  
Williamsport Town Hall  
Williamsport, Maryland

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

# **MCPA-MSA - SB 746 - Suspension Pending Appeal of T**

Uploaded by: Samira Jackson

Position: FWA



# Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

## Maryland Sheriffs' Association



### MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair and  
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee  
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee  
Samira Jackson, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: February 24, 2026

RE: **SB 746 - Police Discipline - Municipal Law Enforcement Agencies - Suspension  
Pending Appeal of Trial Board Decision**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 746 WITH AMENDMENTS**. SB 746 makes a commonsense expansion to current law, by authorizing a police chief that serves a municipality to suspend an officer without pay while their appeal to a Trial Board is pending. Additionally, the bill includes language that allows a law enforcement officer to receive full backpay if they prevail on their appeal.

Under current law, an officer who is suspended without pay is only eligible for back pay when their matter is before an administrative charging committee (ACC), and the charges result in a finding of not guilty, an acquittal, a dismissal, or a nolle prosequi. However, there is no option for back pay when an officer has a pending appeal before a Trial Board. SB 746 authorizes a chief to suspend an officer without pay during the pendency of an appeal before the Trial Board, and not solely during the initial ACC investigation. Subsequently, the officer is entitled to receive backpay should they prevail on appeal to the Trial Board, instead of only for charges that come before the ACC.

MCPA and MSA believe this bill strengthens procedural fairness for officers who prevail on appeal and are ultimately vindicated. We would respectfully request that this bill be amended to include all police departments across the state, to ensure consistency and uniform application of discipline authority and financial restoration as applicable. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 746 WITH AMENDMENTS** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.