

**2026 HB 503 - xover - JPR (FAV).pdf**

Uploaded by: Nicholas Blendy

Position: FAV

# Baltimore City Sheriff's Office

Samuel Cogen, Sheriff

Main Office  
The Clarence Mitchell Courthouse  
100 N. Calvert Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
Phone: 410-396-1155  
Fax: 410-727-3507



District Court Office  
111 N. Calvert Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
Phone: 410-396-7412  
Fax: 410-396-7439

TO: The Honorable Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Nicholas T.R. Blendy, Esq., Assistant Sheriff, Baltimore City Sheriff's Office

RE: House Bill 503 – Baltimore City Sheriff's Office – Collective Bargaining – Compensation

DATE: March 31, 2026

**POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office (BCSO) supports House Bill (HB) 503.

HB 503, if enacted, is intended to clarify that the exclusive representative bargaining unit within the BCSO for full time sworn law enforcement officers and court security officer—which is currently recognized as the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 22 (FOP 22)—has the authority to bargain wages as part of the three-party FOP 22 labor contract with the BCSO and the City of Baltimore (City).

During the past two negotiations between the parties for FOP 22 contract there has been disagreement between the three parties about whether FOP 22 has the authority to negotiate salary and wages as part of the process. By enacting HB 503, this issue will be put to rest and make clear that FOP 22 would have the authority to bargain salary, wages, and merit step increases as part of labor negotiations. It is the BCSO's position that this authority is the foundational right of labor unions, and a right that Sheriff Cogen fully supports.

This same bill was introduced during the last session of the General Assembly as 2025 House Bill 1091. As currently before you, HB 503 is in the same posture as the final version of that bill. The BCSO respectfully requests that this committee please authorize the expansion of FOP 22's right to bargain collectively to include the rights to bargain salary, wages, and merit step increases, as provided in HB 503.

For the foregoing reasons, the BCSO respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 503.

**HB0503-JPR-FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**HB0503**

March 31, 2026

**TO:** Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of the Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 503 - Baltimore City Sheriff's Office - Collective Bargaining - Compensation

**POSITION: Favorable**

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 503.

HB 503 is a reintroduction of HB1091 that was passed by this honorable body during the 2025 Maryland General Assembly session, however, once the bill was passed by the full House of Delegates and crossed over to the Senate, it failed to pass the full Senate before Sine Die.

HB 503 as introduced includes amendments requested by the BCA in the 2025 version of the legislation, which were accepted by the House Delegation last year.

The bill would expand the elements of compensation that the bargaining unit for full-time sworn law enforcement officers and court security officers can collectively bargain with the City and the Sheriff or Sheriff's designee. Current law allows collective bargaining over compensation, but excludes salary, wages, and those benefits determined, offered, administered, controlled, or managed by the City. This legislation is intended to resolve disagreement among the three parties involved in these collective bargaining efforts in future negotiations.

The ability for unions to properly represent their members and bargain on their behalf is of significant importance to Mayor Scott and this legislation will help to clarify what elements can be collectively bargained and which entities are parties to those negotiations.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 503.