



2026 WRITTEN TESTIMONY

PUBLIC SAFETY - LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS - PROHIBITION ON FACE COVERINGS

HB155 / SB1 - FAVORABLE

MAJ urges a favorable vote on HB155/SB1. The bill is a necessary, and unfortunate, response to the state of civil liberty protections in our State, and country. This legislation would ensure appropriate measures are implemented and followed to protect citizens and police, while at the same time avoiding the abuse of face coverings we have seen in various “law enforcement” capacities. The transparency of police action is necessary to keeping the public trust in law enforcement, and to protect against intentional abuses of police powers.

HB155/SB1 also provides a necessary incentive for police to follow the law. SB1 removes an officer’s claim for immunity if the new standards are not followed, and is accompanied by a presumption in favor of misconduct. Without such statutory incentive, law enforcement would have little reason to abide by these standards. MAJ supports HB155/SB1 as a necessary step to protect the civil rights of all Marylanders.

Maryland Association for Justice urges a FAVORABLE Report on HB155 / SB1.

About Maryland Association for Justice

The Maryland Association for Justice (MAJ) represents over 1,250 trial attorneys throughout the state of Maryland. MAJ advocates for the preservation of the civil justice system, the protection of the rights of consumers and the education and professional development of its members.

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