



TESTIMONY TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HB 0508 – Public Safety - Police Accountability - Investigation Records Relating to Not Administratively Charged, Unfounded, and Exonerated Complaints

POSITION: UNFAVORABLE

BY: Linda Kohn, President

DATE: February 24, 2026

The League of Women Voters supports constitutional policies and procedures established by law enforcement with input from the communities they serve. These include conducting comprehensive background checks, to include such history as PTSD, domestic violence, sex offenses, and affiliations with domestic terrorist groups, for all applicants to law enforcement positions; and, disseminating information to the public about policing policies, recruitment, procedures for complaint/commendation, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens and officers in interactions with each other. The League of Women Voters further supports a criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, and transparent in its policing practices.

HB 0508, however, seeks to remove all investigative records related to a complaint of misconduct by a police officer from that individual's personnel record three years after an Administrative Charging Committee issues a finding of unfounded or exonerated. A practice such as this may make it difficult to discern patterns of police conduct as well as to identify trends in the disciplinary process. It is important to have all available documentation of prior conduct to properly evaluate potential misconduct and maintain transparency of the process by way of the Police Accountability Boards as mandated under the [Maryland Police Accountability Act \(MPAA\) of 2021](#).

Therefore, **the League of Women Voters of Maryland**, a member of the Maryland Coalition for Justice and Police Accountability and representing nearly 2,000 citizens throughout Maryland in its own right, **strongly urges you to issue an UNFAVORABLE report.**