

GARY SIMMONS
Legislative District 12B
Anne Arundel County

Judiciary Committee
Subcommittees

Criminal Law and Procedure
Family and Juvenile Law



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 152
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3581 · 301-858-3581
800-492-7122 Ext. 3581
Gary.Simmons@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Good afternoon, Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee,

Delegate Gary Simmons in support of HB11. This bill requires the Anne Arundel County Sheriff to appoint three majors, with salaries to be determined by the Anne Arundel County Council. It is a straightforward bill, but one rooted in structure, accountability, and long-term operational effectiveness.

Under current law, the Sheriff is required to appoint deputies at salaries set by the County Council and is authorized to appoint a chief deputy who serves at the Sheriff's discretion. However, there is no statutory requirement establishing additional command-level positions to support the growing complexity of the office's operations. HB11 seeks to modernize that structure.

Anne Arundel County continues to grow, in population, in court activity, and in the demands placed on public safety. The Sheriff's Office is responsible for courtroom security, service of process, inmate transport, and coordination with multiple law enforcement partners. These responsibilities require clear leadership tiers and define operational oversight.

Importantly, the bill does not set compensation levels. It leaves salary determinations to the Anne Arundel County Council, ensuring local fiscal oversight and responsible budget planning. Additionally, the requirement could be met within existing staffing structures, depending on how the county chooses to implement it.

This legislation does not impact State finances and has no small business effect. It is about strengthening leadership within a critical public safety office at the local level. As a former federal law enforcement officer, I understand firsthand the importance of a strong chain of commands. Clear leadership structure improves communication, increases accountability, and ultimately strengthens public trust.

HB11 is about ensuring that the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office has the organizational framework necessary to meet today's demands and tomorrow's challenges.

I respectfully ask for a favorable report.

Delegate Gary Simmons
Anne Arundel County, District 12b