



State of Maryland
Department of State Police
Government Affairs Unit
Annapolis Office (410) 260-6100

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

DATE: March 10, 2026

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 1415 **POSITION:** Letter of Information

BILL TITLE: Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers- Identification

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

This legislation requires the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (PTSC) to create a statewide policy mandating law enforcement officers wear visible identification while on duty in Maryland. The bill defines "identification" as the officer's agency or department name, last name, and badge or identification number. It applies to state, local, federal, and out-of-state officers, as well as contractors given law enforcement authority in Maryland. A violation of the policy is a criminal misdemeanor.

Under current law, identification requirements for law enforcement officers were addressed in the 2021 Police Accountability Act bills. Following the enactment of that legislation, the Maryland Department of State Police (MDSP), along with over 150 police agencies, purchased and implemented the required name tags and identification markers in accordance with the law.

Maryland law enforcement agencies have complied with identification standards under the 2021 Police Accountability Act and purchased the required identifiers. If the Police Training and Standards Commission adopts new standards requiring changes to uniforms or equipment, updating them statewide could have an unknown fiscal impact. MDSP cannot estimate potential costs until the specific standards are developed. The bill requires the model policy to cover the size, placement, contrast, and legibility of identification to ensure visibility, which may require updating current identification.

House Bill 1415 places an additional burden on all law enforcement and out-of-state officers that may enter this state on official business, by requiring their compliance with a model policy that otherwise does not apply to them in their normal course of duty. The bill appears to include all law enforcement officers operating in Maryland, including federal and out-of-state officers. If these officers do not meet the model policy's identification standards, they could face criminal liability simply for operating in Maryland.

The Maryland Department of State Police respectfully urges the Committee to consider this information when deliberating on House Bill 1415.