



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

SB 0202 – POLICE DISCIPLINE – ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

POSITION: UNFAVORABLE

By: Linda T. Kohn, President

Date: March 31, 2026

The League of Women Voters supports a criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, transparent, and that fosters public trust at all stages. We therefore oppose **SB 202** as amended.

SB 0202 as amended seeks to authorize a police officer who is being investigated for misconduct to interrupt those investigative proceedings by filing a claim in the state circuit court contending that certain rights are being violated. Taking a pause for show cause proceedings could ultimately run out the statute of limitations on imposing any discipline. The bill, moreover, continues to grant additional, special rights to police officers not afforded to other public employees.

SB 0202 calls for a procedure that is antithetical to the process established in the [Maryland Police Accountability Act \(MPAA\) of 2021](#). In the MPAA's disciplinary protocol, the accused must go through the entire administrative process before appealing their decision to a court and cannot interrupt the process to complain to a court that one or more of their rights has been violated. It is unclear why an exception should be made in this instance.

The League of Women Voters of Maryland, representing nearly 2,000 citizens throughout Maryland, **strongly urges you to issue a UNFAVORABLE report.**