



TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE: House Judiciary

DATE: February 24, 2026

POSITION: Favorable

BILL: House Bill 508

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports House Bill 508, which requires the removal of all “investigation records” relating to a complaint of misconduct from a police officer’s personnel record three years after an administrative charging committee or trial board issues a finding that the complaint is unfounded or exonerated.

The removal of such records protects the privacy of police officers who have been cleared of wrongdoing. If complaints are found to be unfounded or the officer is exonerated, retaining such records could unfairly tarnish an officer’s reputation and career, and could lead to morale issues. Officers might feel discouraged or unfairly targeted by records of complaints, even if those complaints did not result in disciplinary action. Removal could help with recruitment and retention by offering more job security and reducing stress on officers.

This proposal could also help police departments manage records more efficiently and reduce administrative burdens. Police departments are often responsible for handling large amounts of paperwork; it is more efficient to focus on cases where the complaints are substantiated, rather than keeping records of those that were found to be unsubstantiated or exonerated.

For these reasons, the League respectfully requests that the Committee provide House Bill 508 with a favorable report.

For more information relating to this piece of testimony, please contact:
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MML represents 88 municipal police departments and roughly 4,000 officers.