

**HB1031\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV**

02/24/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON HB#/1031- POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Law Enforcement - Use of Force - National Guard Members**

**TO:** Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and members of the Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/1031, **Law Enforcement - Use of Force - National Guard Members**

Maryland law (Public Safety Article § 3-524) mandates that police use of force be necessary, proportional, and reasonable based on the totality of circumstances to prevent imminent threat or achieve legitimate objectives. Officers must employ de-escalation tactics, intervene against excessive force by others, and render medical aid.<sup>1</sup>

**Key Aspects of Maryland Use of Force Standards**

- **Necessity and Proportionality**
- **De-escalation**
- **Duty to Intervene**
- **Rendering Medical Aid**
- **Duty to Cease Force**
- **Restriction on Neck Restraints**
- **Reporting and Accountability**

The standards require that the force used be evaluated based on the specific, often split-second, situation rather than hindsight.

In response to multiple reports from multiple states in which the National Guard has been activated for immigration enforcement by the Federal Administration, this bill will establish for Maryland that certain use of force standards are applicable to certain National Guard members acting in the State; and prohibiting a National Guard member from violating the use of force standards, resulting in serious physical injury or death to a person.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/1031.**

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<sup>1</sup> Google AI Search "Maryland use of force standards"