

**Testimony for HB1415/Favorable**  
**HB1415 – Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Identification**  
**House Judiciary Committee**  
**Hearing Date: March 10**

When law enforcement officers do not clearly identify themselves, it undermines public trust, creates opportunities for impersonation, and can place both residents and legitimate officers at risk.

HB1415 strengthens civil rights, public safety, and accountability in law enforcement by requiring clear identification from officers when they are performing their duties. The bill directs the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to establish a model policy requiring law enforcement officers to display identification while acting in the course of duty.

The policy must ensure that officer identification promotes public safety, prevents law enforcement impersonation, and advances transparency and accountability. Once established, the policy would apply to all officers operating in Maryland, including those employed by state, local, out-of-state, or federal agencies.

Clear identification is a basic professional standard. It allows residents to distinguish legitimate law enforcement officers from impersonators and helps ensure that those exercising police authority are accountable for their actions.

HB1415 also provides meaningful enforcement. Officers who knowingly or willfully fail to comply with the identification requirement would be subject to misdemeanor penalties, and violations would constitute police misconduct and waive civil immunity in related actions.

Requiring officers to clearly identify themselves is a reasonable and common-sense measure that promotes public trust while strengthening accountability. For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB1415.

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