



Testimony to the House Judiciary Committee
HB155 Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings
Position: Favorable

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Sandy Bartlett, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
Room 100, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
cc: Members, Judicial Proceedings Committee

Chair Bartlett and Members of the Committee:

Economic Action Maryland Fund is a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations that advances economic rights, equity, and housing justice for Maryland families through research, education, direct service, and advocacy. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

Economic Action Maryland Fund writes in support of HB155.

Through our tenant and older adult direct service programs, Economic Action Maryland Fund serves immigrant clients and communities. Our work to expand economic security is harmed when seniors and eligible renters do not attend community workshops and outreach efforts due to fear and intimidation by masked officers. Our best avenue to reach older adults to assist them with tax credits is through personal outreach at senior and community centers while our fair housing and tenant work to educate individuals about their rights relies on a mix of online and in-person events.

Given the cost-of-living crisis and the cuts in federal assistance, everyday Marylanders need access to economic supports and information to assist renters and those facing housing discrimination now more than ever.

Masked law enforcement officers reduce public trust in law enforcement and may make law-abiding Marylanders less likely to turn to officers when in need.

For these reasons, Economic Action Maryland Fund supports HB155 and urges a favorable report.

Best,

Marceline White
Executive Director

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Economic Action Maryland Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and your contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



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