



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**BILL:** Senate Bill 565 – Mental Health – Employee Assistance Programs

**SPONSOR:** Senator Washington, *et al.*

**HEARING DATE:** February 12, 2020

**COMMITTEE:** Judicial Proceedings

**CONTACT:** Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

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**POSITION:** SUPPORT

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The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 565**, which requires each law enforcement agency to develop and implement an employee assistance program to protect the mental health of police officers and provide police officers access to confidential low- or no-cost mental health services. The bill also requires law enforcement agencies to develop standards for annual assessments of the employee assistance program to identify deficiencies and areas for improvement.

The Prince George's Police Department(PGPD) supports this bill. Currently, PGPD utilizes an Employee Assistance Program for its officers. The provisions of the proposed legislation have been in part of PGPD policy for years and the program is accounted for yearly in the agency's budget. The County and its officers have seen the benefit of this program and are supportive of it becoming a statewide requirement.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 565** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.