



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: Senate Bill 626 - Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 - Law Enforcement Officers - Use of Force, Reporting, and Whistleblower Protections

SPONSOR: Senator Carter

HEARING DATE: March 25, 2021

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 626 - Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 - Law Enforcement Officers - Use of Force, Reporting, and Whistleblower Protections**, which establishes a statewide use of force standard for law enforcement officers. The bill also provides the deadline by which local law enforcement agencies must develop and implement use of force policies and guidance and requires local law enforcement agencies to report to the State data on use of force incidents every six months. In addition, the bill adds whistleblower protections for police officers who report misconduct within their agency.

Last year we witnessed a national social justice movement began in the midst of a global pandemic. While most law enforcement officers take their responsibility to maintain the public's trust seriously, there continue to be far too many incidents of officers abusing their power. That's why we must implement policies that crack down on bad actors while empowering officers who continue to do what is right.

The bill also aligns with the recommendations of the police reform work group I convened in 2020 to study policing in Prince George's County and deliver recommendations that establish fair practices across the board, maximize transparency, and restore public trust in law enforcement. The work group recommended the Prince George's County Council establish a county-wide use of force statute.

For these reasons, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 626** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.