

**HB637\_WCBOCC\_FAV.2.3.23.pdf**

Uploaded by: Dawn Marcus

Position: FAV

John F. Barr, *President*  
Jeffrey A. Cline, *Vice President*



Derek Harvey  
Wayne K. Keefer  
Randall E. Wagner

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND**

February 3, 2023

Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair  
Appropriations Committee  
Room 121  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 637; Washington County-Deputy Sheriff's and Correctional  
Deputies-Employment Conditions and Collective Bargaining: SUPPORT

Dear Delegate Barnes:

By a vote of 5-0, the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County unanimously supports House Bill 637. HB 637 would alter the grounds on which a deputy sheriff with the rank of major or below, in Washington County, may be discharged after two years of continuous employment; provides that a special deputy sheriff in Washington County is not a State employee for certain reasons; and authorizes sworn deputy sheriffs at the rank of sergeant and below and correctional deputies at the rank of sergeant and below to engage in collective bargaining with the Washington County Sheriff and the County Administrator.

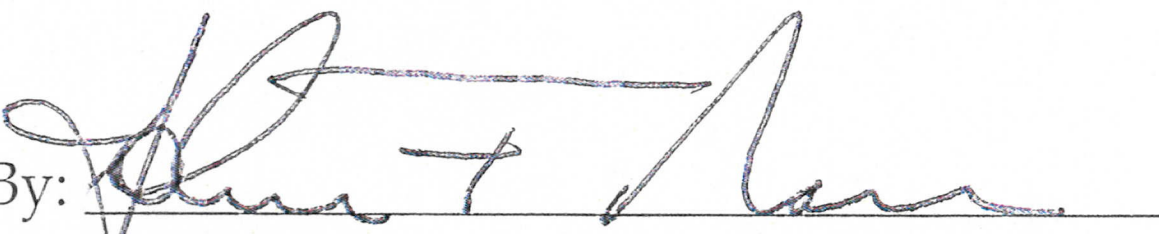
This bill updates certain terminology to comply with changes in State law as a result of the Police Accountability Act. The bill also authorizes the Sheriff and County to engage in collective bargaining with sworn deputies and correctional officers. Collective bargaining would not occur unless the sworn deputies and/or correctional officers of certain ranks asked to be recognized as a collective bargaining unit. The bill defines the issues that could be the subject of the collective bargaining negotiations.

For these reasons, the Board of County Commissioners urges the Committee to approve HB 637.

Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair  
Appropriations Committee  
February 3, 2023  
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Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

By:   
John F. Barr, President

cc (via email): Delegate William J. Wivell  
Delegate Terry L. Baker  
Delegate Brook Grossman  
Delegate William Valentine

# **HB637 Final Written Testimony signed.pdf**

Uploaded by: Patrick McAndrew

Position: FAV

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Reply to: Greenbelt Office

### HB637 - COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR DEPUTY SHERIFF'S AND CORRECTIONAL DEPUTIES

#### WASHINGTON COUNTY

#### POSITION: FAVORABLE

To: The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair  
The Honorable Mark S. Chang, Vice Chair  
Honorable Committee Members  
House Appropriations Committee

Date: March 6, 2023

The members of Washington County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #150 thank the members of the Appropriations Committee, and the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee (SB428) for their consideration of HB637, which if approved, would confer collective bargaining rights upon deputy sheriff's and correctional deputies employed by the Washington County Office of the Sheriff.

By conferring such rights on these employees, as supported by a unanimous Board of County Commissioners, these dedicated public safety employees would be joining a large number of other non-public safety Washington County government employees that currently enjoy the benefits of collective bargaining.

Historically, when a legislative body considers collective bargaining rights for sworn law enforcement employees, one issue stands out - strikes. HB637 expressly prohibits deputies from engaging in any form of a strike. Even if the legislation were silent on strikes, FOP Lodge 150's Constitution and By-laws both prohibit any form of a strike, which mirrors both the State and Nation FOP's Constitution and By-laws. The citizens of Washington County would never have to be concerned about the prospects of a strike.

A favorable report of this legislation and its ultimate passage would put Washington County on par with its bordering neighbors, Allegany and Frederick Counties, whose sheriff's deputies are covered by collective bargaining agreements. In this hyper competitive recruiting climate for law enforcement agencies across Maryland and across the country, collective bargaining will enhance Washington County's ability to attract the top qualified candidates that the citizens of Washington County expect and deserve, and whom Sheriff Albert undoubtedly desires to add to an already outstanding professional law enforcement agency in a thriving growing region of Maryland.

Respectfully,



# **Collective Bargaining Support Letter.pdf**

Uploaded by: William Wivell

Position: FAV

DELEGATE WILLIAM J. WIVELL  
CHAIR  
SENATOR MIKE W. MCKAY  
VICE-CHAIR



SENATOR PAUL D. CORDERMAN

DELEGATE TERRY BAKER  
DELEGATE BROOKE GROSSMAN  
DELEGATE WILLIAM VALENTINE

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
WASHINGTON COUNTY DELEGATION

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Honorable Ben Barnes  
Appropriations Committee  
House Office Building Room 121  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Barnes,

The Washington County Delegation voted unanimously to support “HB0637 (SB0428) Washington County - Deputy Sheriffs and Correctional Deputies - Employment Conditions and Collective Bargaining”. We respectfully request your support of this bill as amended.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by email at [William.Wivell@house.state.md.us](mailto:William.Wivell@house.state.md.us), or by phone at 410-841-3447.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Wivell".

William Wivell, Chair  
Washington County Delegation

**WashCoSupportLetterCollectBargHB637.pdf**

Uploaded by: William Wivell

Position: FAV



Kirk C. Downey  
County Attorney



Kendall A. Desaulniers  
Deputy County Attorney

Zachary J. Kieffer  
Assistant County Attorney

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

January 19, 2023

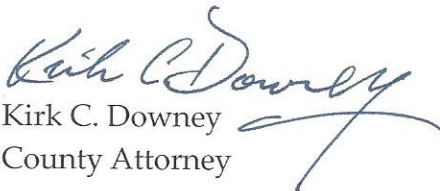
Delegate William J. Wivell, Chair  
Washington County Delegation  
322 Lowe House Office Building  
6 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Collective Bargaining Bill for Deputies

Dear Delegate Wivell:

The Board of County Commissioners for Washington County, Maryland, fully supports the proposed enabling legislation to allow the Sheriff to engage in collective bargaining with deputies. The Board has consistently supported this enabling legislation and, as recently as January 10, 2023, unanimously voted at its regular meeting to ratify and confirm its support for the initiative.

Sincerely,

  
Kirk C. Downey  
County Attorney

KCD/dlm