



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 7, 2023

Committee: House Appropriations

Bill: HB 308 - Police Retention Workgroup

Position: Support with Amendment

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports House Bill 308 with amendment, to add municipal police agency representation on the workgroup established in the bill. We expect the workgroup to provide valuable information that will lead to municipal police agencies recruiting and retaining top quality police officers. The bill establishes a workgroup with the task of examining factors that are contributing to the decline in police officer retention.

There are 89 municipal police agencies in Maryland and at some point there have been challenges with police officer recruitment and retention in every part of the State; this problem seems to be particularly pervasive at the moment. As the costs and risks to operate a police agency continue to rise, the issue of officer compensation is of the utmost importance; both in terms of running an efficient and effective municipal public safety program but also finding and developing the right officers.

There are more municipal police agencies than county and State agencies combined. As such MML requests that the committee consider our proposed amendment which has been submitted to the bill sponsor:

On page 2, after line 6 insert:

(9) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE:

(i) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR AN URBAN MUNICIPALITY;

(ii) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR A RURAL MUNICIPALITY.

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The workgroup established in HB 308 is an appropriate vehicle to provide much needed information on policies and trends that municipal police agencies can use to continue providing critical public safety services. For these reasons the League respectfully requests that this committee provide a favorable report on House Bill 18 with the above amendment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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