



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

JENNIFER AIOSA
Director of Government Affairs

AMANDA KONTZ CARR
Legislative Officer

JOSHUA M. GREENBERG
Associate Director of Government Affairs

BILL NO.: **HB 308**

TITLE: Police Retention Workgroup

SPONSOR: Delegate Tomlinson

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

DATE: February 2, 2023

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** House Bill 308 – Police Retention Workgroup. This legislation would establish a workgroup to study issues and factors contributing to the decrease in police office retention.

During the past few years, law enforcement agencies across the State of Maryland have begun to struggle with police retention. Baltimore County has recently faced a wave of recent retirements and has initiated a robust hiring program to eliminate staffing shortfalls. While these measures bring in more recruits, the County is not immune to the struggles jurisdiction across the country are experiencing with the retention of personnel.

House Bill 308 would convene a workgroup to identify what factors are contributing to the issue so that steps may be taken to improve retention. Identifying and examining these factors with local input is crucial for retaining the current police force and incentivize new recruits to join. Without understanding the core issues leading to declines in police retention, the significant efforts made by Baltimore County may not be enough. Input from local stakeholders, however, is critical to achieve this mission in a manner that is tailored to the needs of each and every local law enforcement agency. The County feels that this bill could be made stronger if it were amended to include local stakeholder input.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report on HB 308. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.