



March 25, 2014

The Honorable Joseph F. Vallario, Jr.  
Chair, Judiciary Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
Room 101, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Vallario,

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) testified in opposition to SB 436 as introduced and as it was initially heard before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. MACo found the original bill overly broad, requiring exclusion of much evidence from procedures under the Law Enforcement Officer Bill of Rights (LEOBR).

Through an agreement reached by the Chiefs and Sheriffs with the Fraternal Order of Police, SB 436 as amended by the Senate now is much more targeted. The amended bill alters §3-104 to specify that upon a finding that a law enforcement agency obtained evidence against a law enforcement officer in violation of the subtitle, the court shall grant appropriate relief. Essentially, the amended bill shifts the primary responsibility for remediating investigative violations under the LEOBR from the administrative hearing officer to the circuit court.

MACo supports the agreement reached and the corresponding Senate amendments, and hereby **withdraws its opposition** to the bill following the Senate amendments.

Sincerely,



Natasha Mehu

Policy Analyst, MACo

CC: The Honorable Brian E. Frosh, Maryland State Senate