



Testimony to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

SB752 - Police Discipline - Order to Show Cause

Position- Oppose

By: Nancy Soreng

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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. The League advocates against systemic racism in the justice system and, at a minimum, for preventing excessive force and brutality by law enforcement. **The League supports a criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, transparent, and that fosters public trust at all stages.**

The League supported the repeal of the Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights (LEOBR), which was enacted into law as part of the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021. LEOBR granted protections to law enforcement officers that no other public employee enjoyed. Additionally, LEOBR limited investigations of misconduct, leading to only a very small percentage of complaints actually resulting in discipline.

The repeal of LEOBR is crucial to holding police accountable for misconduct.

Senate Bill 752 would roll back this accountability. The bill would allow police officers to interrupt disciplinary proceedings by going to court to argue that their procedural rights have been violated. This is unnecessary as there is nothing currently hindering them from appealing their discipline to the Circuit Court.

This bill is an attempt to disrupt the police accountability process. Holding law enforcement officers accountable for their actions is essential to create the trust between communities of color and police. That trust is necessary for law enforcement's ability to keep communities safe.

The League of Women Voters, Maryland, representing 1500+ concerned citizens throughout Maryland, **strongly urges an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 752.**