

## Law-Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights

FOR the purpose of altering certain provisions of the law relating to law-enforcement officers' bill of rights; clarifying language; providing for the preemption of certain local legislation; providing for a certain penalty; and generally relating to law-enforcement officers' bill of rights.

May 26, 1977

Honorable John Hanson Briscoe  
Speaker of the House of Delegates  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 1651.

This bill substantially revises many of the rights and procedures applicable to the "Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights".

Senate Bill 1026, which was enacted by the General Assembly and signed by Lieutenant Governor Blair Lee III in his capacity as Acting Governor on May 17, 1977, accomplishes the same purpose.

In addition, Senate Bill 1026, by an amendment to §728(a) (4) of Article 27, limits the filing of a certain type of complaint against a law enforcement officer to the aggrieved person, those persons with first hand knowledge of the facts, or those persons with a familial tie to the aggrieved person. House Bill 1651 however, because of careless drafting of an amendment, would appear to permit a member of the immediate family of a person who observed the incident to file a complaint. I do not believe this was the intention of the General Assembly. Were it not for this error, I would have preferred to sign House Bill 1651 over Senate Bill 1026.

However, for the reason noted, I have decided to veto House Bill 1651.

Sincerely,  
Marvin Mandel  
Governor

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