

# SENATE BILL 166

L2, E4  
SB 829/16 – JPR

7lr2110  
CF 7lr1658

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By: **Senator Conway (By Request – Baltimore City Administration) and Senators  
Ferguson, McFadden, Nathan-Pulliam, and Robinson**

Introduced and read first time: January 18, 2017

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore City – Civilian Review Board**

3 FOR the purpose of altering certain procedures for filing a complaint with the Baltimore  
4 City Civilian Review Board; repealing certain time limits on filing a complaint;  
5 authorizing the Board to review an incomplete complaint; authorizing a complainant  
6 to request that a complaint be confidential; providing that a certain report, under  
7 certain circumstances, remains subject to a certain review and certain  
8 recommendations by the Board; repealing a certain period of time within which the  
9 Board is required to submit a certain statement to the head of a certain law  
10 enforcement unit; repealing certain references to the Secretary of the Board; making  
11 certain stylistic and technical changes; altering certain definitions; and generally  
12 relating to the Baltimore City Civilian Review Board.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 The Public Local Laws of Baltimore City  
15 Section 16–41  
16 Article 4 – Public Local Laws of Maryland  
17 (1979 Edition and 1997 Supplement, and 2000 Supplement, as amended)  
18 (As enacted by Chapter 499 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2006, as amended  
19 by Chapter 130 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2015)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
21 The Public Local Laws of Baltimore City  
22 Section 16–42(a)  
23 Article 4 – Public Local Laws of Maryland  
24 (1979 Edition and 1997 Supplement, and 2000 Supplement, as amended)  
25 (As enacted by Chapter 499 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2006)

26 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
27 The Public Local Laws of Baltimore City

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Section 16–43(b), 16–44(c) through (e), and 16–48(a)  
Article 4 – Public Local Laws of Maryland  
(1979 Edition and 1997 Supplement, and 2000 Supplement, as amended)

BY repealing

The Public Local Laws of Baltimore City  
Section 16–44(b)  
Article 4 – Public Local Laws of Maryland  
(1979 Edition and 1997 Supplement, and 2000 Supplement, as amended)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

The Public Local Laws of Baltimore City  
Section 16–45  
Article 4 – Public Local Laws of Maryland  
(1979 Edition and 1997 Supplement, and 2000 Supplement, as amended)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

The Public Local Laws of Baltimore City  
Section 16–46  
Article 4 – Public Local Laws of Maryland  
(1979 Edition and 1997 Supplement, and 2000 Supplement, as amended)  
(As enacted by Chapter 499 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2006)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

#### Article 4 – Baltimore City

16–41.

(a) In this subheading the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) **(1)** “Abusive language” means [the use of remarks intended to be demeaning, humiliating, mocking, insulting, or belittling that may or may not be based on the actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity of an individual] **HARSH, VIOLENT, PROFANE, OR DEROGATORY LANGUAGE THAT WOULD DEMEAN THE DIGNITY OF AN INDIVIDUAL.**

**(2) “ABUSIVE LANGUAGE” INCLUDES PROFANITY AND RACIAL, ETHNIC, OR SEXIST SLURS.**

(c) (1) “Excessive force” means the use of greater physical force than reasonably necessary to repel an attacker or terminate resistance.

(2) “Excessive force” does not include force that is reasonably necessary to effect a lawful purpose.

(d) “False arrest” means an arrest made without legal justification.

(e) “False imprisonment” means the intentional restriction without legal justification of the freedom of movement of a person who is aware of the restriction and who does not consent.

(f) (1) “Harassment” means:

(i) repeated or unwarranted conduct that is intended to be overtly demeaning, humiliating, mocking, insulting, or belittling; [or]

(ii) any conduct that is intended to cause unnecessary physical discomfort or injury[.]; OR

**(III) UNWARRANTED THREATS OR UNWARRANTED DEMANDS.**

(2) “Harassment” does not include conduct that is reasonably necessary to effect a lawful purpose.

(g) “Law enforcement unit” means:

(1) the Police Department of Baltimore City;

(2) the Baltimore City School Police;

(3) the Housing Authority of Baltimore City Police;

(4) the Baltimore City Sheriff’s Department;

(5) the Baltimore City Watershed Police Force;

(6) the police force of the Baltimore City Community College; or

(7) the police force of Morgan State University.

(h) “Police officer” means a member of a law enforcement unit authorized to make arrests.

16–42.

(a) The Civilian Review Board of Baltimore City is established to provide a permanent, statutory agency in Baltimore City through which:

(1) complaints lodged by members of the public regarding abusive language, false arrest, false imprisonment, harassment, or excessive force by police officers of a law enforcement unit shall be processed, investigated under § 16–46 of this subheading, and evaluated; and

(2) policies of a law enforcement unit may be reviewed.

16-43.

(b) At its first meeting each year, the Board shall elect a [Chairman] **CHAIR** and Secretary.

16-44.

[(b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a complaint shall be made within 1 year of the action giving rise to the complaint.

(2) A complaint for excessive force shall be made within 90 days of the alleged act of excessive force.]

[(c) (B) (1) [(i) The complaint shall be reduced to writing on a form authorized by the Board, signed by the complainant, and witnessed by a notary public.

(ii) In addition to the requirements of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, a complaint for excessive force shall be sworn to by the complainant] **THE COMPLAINT SHALL BE REDUCED TO WRITING ON A FORM AUTHORIZED BY THE BOARD AND SIGNED BY THE COMPLAINANT.**

(2) The **FORM FOR THE** complaint **THAT IS AUTHORIZED BY THE BOARD** shall include **REQUESTS FOR THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

(i) the name of the complainant;

(ii) if known, the name of the police officer allegedly involved;

(iii) the date, time, and place of the alleged misconduct;

(iv) the circumstances of the alleged misconduct; and

(v) an explanation of the alleged misconduct that is deemed to be wrongful.

**(3) THE BOARD MAY REVIEW AN INCOMPLETE COMPLAINT.**

**(4) A COMPLAINANT MAY REQUEST THAT THE COMPLAINT BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.**

[(d) (C) (1) One copy of the completed form shall be retained by the recipient of the complaint and a copy given to the complainant.

1           **(2) [A] EXCEPT FOR COMPLAINTS REQUESTED TO BE CONFIDENTIAL**  
2 **UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(4) OF THIS SECTION, A** copy shall be sent within 48 hours to  
3 the Internal Investigative Division and [the Secretary of] the Board.

4           **(3) A COPY OF A COMPLAINT THAT IS REQUESTED TO BE**  
5 **CONFIDENTIAL UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(4) OF THIS SECTION:**

6                   **(I) SHALL BE SENT WITHIN 48 HOURS TO THE BOARD; AND**

7                   **(II) MAY NOT BE SENT TO THE INTERNAL INVESTIGATIVE**  
8 **DIVISION UNTIL AFTER THE BOARD SENDS ITS FINAL RECOMMENDATION TO THE**  
9 **HEAD OF THE APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT UNIT.**

10           **(4) A RECIPIENT OF A COMPLAINT THAT IS REQUESTED TO BE**  
11 **CONFIDENTIAL MAY NOT DISCLOSE THE INFORMATION IN THE COMPLAINT.**

12           **[(e)] (D)** The [Secretary of the] Board shall assign a consecutive number to each  
13 complaint, and within 48 hours, shall send a copy to each member of the Board. The  
14 [Secretary] **BOARD** shall also maintain on file a record of each complaint.

15 16–45.

16           (a) The Internal Investigative Division shall make a comprehensive investigation  
17 of each complaint and submit its Internal Investigative Division Report relating to the  
18 incident alleged to the Board within 90 days from the date of the complaint.

19           (b) For good cause shown, the Board may extend the time allowed to complete the  
20 report required under subsection (a) of this section.

21 16–46.

22           (a) (1) The Board shall review all complaints alleging police misconduct  
23 described in § 16–42(a)(1) of this subheading.

24           (2) The Board may investigate, simultaneously with the Internal  
25 Investigative Division, each complaint it deems appropriate and report its findings to the  
26 Internal Investigative Division.

27           **(3) THE BOARD SHALL INVESTIGATE INDEPENDENTLY A COMPLAINT**  
28 **THAT IS REQUESTED TO BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL UNDER § 16–44(B)(4) OF THIS**  
29 **SUBTITLE.**

30           (b) (1) The Board may issue a subpoena, signed by the [Chairman] **CHAIR** of  
31 the Board, to compel:

(i) the attendance and testimony of a witness other than the accused officer; and

(ii) the production of any book, record, or other document.

(2) If a person fails to comply with a subpoena issued under this subsection, on petition of the Board, a court of competent jurisdiction may compel compliance with the subpoena.

(3) A police officer may submit a witness list to the Board 10 days or more before the Board takes testimony.

(4) The [Chairman or the Secretary of the Board] **CHAIR OR THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE** may administer oaths in connection with any proceeding of the Board.

(5) The police officer or the police officer's representative shall have the right to question witnesses who testify about the complaint.

(6) All witness testimony shall be recorded.

(c) (1) The Board shall review the Internal Investigative Division's Report.

**(2) IF THE INTERNAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION INVESTIGATES AN EXCESSIVE FORCE INCIDENT WHERE THERE HAS NOT BEEN A FORMAL COMPLAINT FILED BY A CIVILIAN, THE INTERNAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION'S REPORT REMAINS SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION BY THE CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

**[(2)] (3)** On review of the Internal Investigative Division Report and the Board's investigative report, if any, of each case, the Board shall recommend to the head of the appropriate law enforcement unit one of the following actions:

(i) sustain the complaint and may recommend the appropriate disciplinary action against the police officer;

(ii) not sustain the complaint;

(iii) exonerate the police officer;

(iv) find that the complaint is unfounded; or

(v) require further investigation by the Internal Investigative Division.

1 (d) The Board shall submit a statement of its findings and recommendations to  
2 the head of the appropriate law enforcement unit [within 30 days of receipt of the Internal  
3 Investigative Division Report].

4 16–48.

5 (a) The head of the appropriate law enforcement unit has final decision–making  
6 responsibility for the appropriate disciplinary action in each case, but the head of the law  
7 enforcement unit may not take final action until after reviewing the recommendation of the  
8 Board under [§ 16–46(c)(2)] **§ 16–46(C)(3)** of this subheading.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
10 1, 2017.