



## Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 Police Discipline and Law Enforcement Programs and Procedures

### Local Requirement - Establish 3 New Boards:

- Police Accountability Board
- Administrative Charging Committee
- Trial Board

**The Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021  
Effective July 1, 2022.**

The right side of the slide features a decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, semi-transparent green triangles and polygons of varying shades, ranging from light lime green to dark forest green. These shapes are arranged in a dynamic, abstract pattern that tapers towards the top right corner.

The Act establishes requirements for police accountability and discipline.

This includes a requirement that each county shall have a Police Accountability Board.

## Garrett County Government is required to:

- Establish membership;
- Establish budget and staff;
- Appoint a chair with relevant experience; and
- Establish procedures for record keeping.

The Police Accountability Board's role is to:

- Hold quarterly meetings with heads of law enforcement agencies and otherwise work with law enforcement agencies and county government to improve matters of policing;
- Appoint members to the Administrative Charging Committee;
- Receive complaints of police misconduct filed by the public;
- Review quarterly outcomes of disciplinary matters considered by charging committees; and
- By December 31, submit a report to the County Commissioners and recommend policy changes that would improve police accountability in the county.

# Garrett County Police Accountability Board Membership

The Garrett County Police Accountability Board shall consist of five (5) members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners:

- Chairperson with familiarity with the criminal justice system.
- One (1) retired, sworn law enforcement officer
- Three (3) citizens with familiarity or experience with human resources, the operation of a government agency, criminal justice agency or community services agency.

Members shall serve for a three-year term, be a County resident, registered to vote, and be at least 25 years of age.

## Police Accountability Board Membership

- No active police officers may be a member of the Police Accountability Board.

- Submit to a vetting process that includes intensive in-person interview by the Board of County Commissioners or its designee.

- All members shall have a criminal history background check performed prior to their appointment. An individual may not be a member of the Board if they have been convicted of or received probation before judgement for a felony or a misdemeanor with a statutory penalty of more than 2 years.

- To the extent practicable, the membership shall reflect the racial, gender, and cultural diversity of the county.
- Members shall be required to complete training required by the Maryland Police Training Commission.





Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021  
**Administrative Charging Committee**

# Garrett County Government Administrative Charging Committee

The Role of the Administrative Charging Committee is to:


- Review findings of a law enforcement agency's investigation;
- Review any body camera footage that may be relevant to the matters covered in the complaint of misconduct;
- Determine whether or not to administratively charge the police officer who is the subject of the investigation;
- If the police officer is charged, recommend discipline in accordance with that officer's agency's disciplinary matrix;
- Issue a written opinion that describes in detail its findings, determinations, and recommendations;
- Forward the written opinion to the chief of the law enforcement agency, the police officer, and the complainant.

Garrett County Administrative Charging Committee is required by the State law to be a Five (5) person committee:

- The Chair of the Accountability Board, or that Chair's designee from the Accountability Board;
- The Accountability Board appoints two (2) civilian members of the public; and
- The Board of County Commissioners appoint two (2) civilian members of the public.

## Administrative Charging Committee Membership

- Members shall serve for a three-year term, be a County resident, registered to vote, and be at least 25 years of age.
- No active police officers may be a member of the Administrative Charging Committee.
- Submit to a vetting process that includes intensive in-person interview by the Board of County Commissioners or their designee.

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- All members shall have a criminal history background check performed prior to their appointment. An individual may not be a member of the Committee if they have been convicted of or received probation before judgement for a felony or a misdemeanor with a statutory penalty of more than 2 years.
  - Members shall be required to complete training required by the Maryland Police Training Commission.

# Garrett County Trial Board

- Within 15 days after an Administrative Charging Committee issues an Administrative Charge against a police officer, the Chief of the law enforcement agency shall offer discipline to the police officer who has been administratively charged in accordance with the Disciplinary Matrix.
- The Chief may offer the same discipline that was recommended by the Administrative Charging Committee or a higher degree of discipline within the applicable range of the Disciplinary Matrix, but may not deviate below the discipline recommended by the Administrative Charging Committee.

-If the police officer accepts the Chief's offer of discipline, then the offered discipline shall be imposed.

-If the police officer does not accept the Chief's offer of discipline, then the matter shall be referred to a Trial Board.

# Garrett County Trial Board

The Board of County Commissioners shall appoint one (1) member to the Garrett County Sheriff's Department Trial Board. All municipal law enforcement agencies in Garrett County will use the Sheriff's Office Trial Board.

1. That member shall be an active or retired administrative law judge or a retired District or Circuit Court Judge.
2. The Police Accountability Board shall appoint a civilian who is not a member of the Administrative Charging Committee.
3. A police officer of equal rank to the police officer who is accused of misconduct appointed by the Garrett County Sheriff.

Before serving as a member of a Trial Board, an individual shall receive training on matters relating to police procedures from the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission.

The meetings of the Board shall be open to the public and subject to the Open Meetings Act.



COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO

[GCOMMENTS@GARRETTCOUNTY.ORG](mailto:GCOMMENTS@GARRETTCOUNTY.ORG)

LETTERS OF INTEREST WITH RESUMES MAY BE  
SUBMITTED, VIA EMAIL TO THE ATTENTION OF  
KEVIN NULL AT [KNULL@GARRETTCOUNTY.ORG](mailto:KNULL@GARRETTCOUNTY.ORG)

OR MAILED TO  
GARRETT COUNTY  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
203 SOUTH FOURTH STREET, ROOM 207  
OAKLAND, MD 21550

LETTERS OF INTEREST WILL BE ACCEPTED  
THROUGH APRIL 30, 2022