



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith Jr., Chairman and
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Chief David Morris, Co-Chair, MCPA, Joint Legislative Committee
Sheriff Darren Popkin, Co-Chair, MSA, Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: February 26, 2020

RE: **SB 858 Procurement and Correctional Facilities – Employment
Opportunities for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals**

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) OPPOSE SB 858. This bill requires that specified procurements for goods and services at a State or local correctional facility, including procurements through master contracts, give preference to bidders or offerors based on the number of employees who are formerly incarcerated individuals.

While well intentioned, SB 858 would only complicate the contract bidding processes for local correctional facilities and contractors. It requires contractors to submit reports, advertise job openings on a State website, hire formerly incarcerated persons by mandate, and develop new policy. It requires local government to accept bids only from contractors who meet these requirements and exclude those who do not. The burdensome requirements of this bill would likely deter contractors from bidding on these contracts. Ultimately, the bill makes the contract process lengthier, less competitive, and will not further the goal of increasing employment opportunities for former inmates.

Local detention centers offer many programs to assist inmates with gaining employment upon completion of their sentence. These efforts may include pre-apprenticeship programs, educational courses and other skills-based training. These efforts increase employment opportunities for former inmates, not make the contract process lengthier and less competitive.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA OPPOSE SB 858 and URGE an UNFAVORABLE committee report.