



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chairman and Members of the Judiciary 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: January 23, 2020

RE: **HB 126 – Peace Orders – Workplace Violence**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) SUPPORT HB 126. This bill would authorize an employer under appropriate circumstances to file a peace order petition with the District Court of Maryland seeking protection on behalf of an employee, for certain misconduct affecting an employee, occurring in the workplace.

An employer in Maryland has a general obligation to provide its employees with a safe working environment (*see* Md. Code, Labor and Employment Article, § 5-104). HB 126 would authorize an employer to enhance employee safety, by allowing the employer to file a peace order petition seeking to protect its employee, if the employee becomes the victim of certain egregious conduct occurring in the workplace.

This amendment to the Maryland Peace Order law, Md. Code, Courts Article, § 3-1501 – 3-1510, would allow an employer to obtain a court order prohibiting a respondent from harming, threatening, harassing, or entering the employee's residence or place of employment. HB 126 is designed to curtail or prevent the occurrence of workplace related violence.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA SUPPORT HB 126 and urge a FAVORABLE Committee report.