



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: February 19, 2020

RE: **HB 762 Task Force to Study Impaired Driving and New Technologies**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) SUPPORT HB 762. This bill would establish a task force to study impaired driving and identify the most effective and practical technologies and best practices to combat impaired driving.

Many steps have been taken over the past several years to curtail driving under the influence of alcohol. Despite the best efforts of our legislators, law enforcement, and judicial system, Maryland continues to experience catastrophic motor vehicle collisions caused by those who choose to drive while impaired by alcohol and/or drugs. Yet, these collisions, and the associated loss of life, are 100% preventable. With the decriminalization of marijuana under 10 grams, law enforcement has witnessed an increase of those who drive while impaired by this drug. However, law enforcement officers do not have appropriate technology to test for these infractions.

HB 762 will establish a task force to examine these issues, initiatives in other states, and evolving scientific technologies that may assist law enforcement efforts, increase highway safety and save lives.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA SUPPORT HB 762 and URGE a FAVORABLE Committee Report.