



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair and
Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

FROM: Chief of Staff 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 26, 2022

RE: **SB 70 – Emergency Medical System Plan – Guidelines for Emergency
Medical Services – Law Enforcement Canines**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) SUPPORT SB 70 . This bill adds a requirement to the emergency medical services plan to authorize emergency medical services personnel to provide services to a canine injured in the line of duty.

Law enforcement canines play an important role in policing. Whether they are searching for individuals who have committed crimes, detecting for explosives or drugs, or apprehending a suspect, canines often find themselves in harm's way. When a canine and his handler come into contact with a person of interest, the canine is often as likely to be the subject of the violence as the handler. However, although canines may be provided ballistic vests for protection, they do not cover the entire body and are not effective in stabbing and other types of violence involving weapons.

Individuals who have pets, form an emotional bond with them. The same is true of a law enforcement canine and his handler. A canine being injured in the line of duty is an emotional event for the handler, as the ability to have immediate medical treatment at the scene of the incident, should be the normal course of action in these circumstances.

SB 70 recognizes providing medical services to individuals should take priority. However, authorizing the provision of medical services and transportation to veterinary facilities for a law enforcement canine and recognizes the seriousness of the situations they enter into and honors their service.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA SUPPORT SB 70 and urge a FAVORABLE report.