



# Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



## MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee  
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee  
Natasha Mehu, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: March 5, 2024

RE: **SB 929 – Sex Offender Registration – Local Law Enforcement Units –  
Registration Locations**

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **OPPOSE SB 929**. This bill requires each local law enforcement agency to designate multiple locations, geographically distributed throughout the county, where a registrant can register on the Maryland Sex Offender Registry.

Under current law, a sex offender must register in person with the local law enforcement unit of each county where the sex offender resides within three days of release from any period of imprisonment or arrest or register with the supervising authority if the registrant is moving into the State and the local law enforcement unit is not the supervising authority. In each jurisdiction, it is the primary local law enforcement agency that has been designated as the agency where the registration and periodic check-ins take place.

SB 929 requires each law enforcement agency, many of which are not the primary law enforcement agency, to become an agency where individuals can register and perform periodic check-ins. This would take significant training and resources for each agency to perform these functions. In addition to training and staff, it also requires agencies to put security measures in place, some of which could be costly considering the limited space of some agencies. Further, the populations of some jurisdictions do not warrant multiple locations being established for this purpose.

After talking with the sponsor's office, MCPA and MSA are aware of limited circumstances in larger jurisdictions where this has become an issue. A better approach may be to address the issues within those jurisdictions.

Although MCPA and MSA oppose this legislation, we offer the following suggestions for consideration.

- Narrow the scope of the bill to the primary law enforcement agency in each jurisdiction – this would be the County Police Department or Sheriffs’ Office.
- Further narrow the scope to those jurisdictions with populations over 500,000. This targets the jurisdictions where there may be more of a problem for individuals meeting the registry requirements. It would also target those with resources and staff to meet the new requirement.
- Require the applicable jurisdictions to designate two locations.