



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair and
Members of the Senate Finance Committee

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

DATE: March 25, 2025

RE: **HB 176**

POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT HB 176 with amendments.** This bill requires the Correctional Training Commission to establish regulations for body-worn cameras by correctional officers.

MCPA-MSA support this legislation, as it represents a necessary step forward in ensuring the safety, accountability, and professionalism of correctional officers through the implementation of body-worn cameras. This bill establishes clear regulations regarding the training, issuance, and use of these devices, addressing critical aspects such as data security, privacy considerations, and procedural integrity. By requiring correctional units to develop policies consistent with state regulations, the bill promotes uniformity in best practices, enhancing both transparency and the protection of officers and inmates alike. However, it is essential to acknowledge that not all counties operate under collective bargaining agreements, making a blanket requirement for policy negotiation through collective bargaining impractical.

To address this concern, an amendment to page 3, lines 28-29 and page 4, lines 1-2, should be introduced to ensure that the bill remains equitable and applicable to all jurisdictions. Specifically, the language in 8-211 Section (B)(2), which mandates that policies must be a subject of collective bargaining, should be revised to accommodate counties without such agreements. The amendment should allow that in the absence of a collective bargaining agreement, local correctional authorities shall establish their own policies, perhaps in consultation with relevant stakeholders. This approach maintains the intent of the bill while providing flexibility for jurisdictions that operate outside of collective bargaining frameworks.

Additionally, the amendment should clarify that correctional units in non-collective bargaining counties may adopt to the regulatory framework set forth by The Commission. This ensures consistency across all jurisdictions, preventing disparities in implementation and enforcement. By doing so, the bill remains fair and effective in enhancing correctional facility oversight while respecting the structural differences

532 Baltimore Boulevard, Suite 308
Westminster, Maryland 21157
667-314-3216 / 667-314-3236

among counties. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT HB 176 with amendments** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.