



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair and
Members of the House Judiciary 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 26, 2025

RE: **SB 608**

POSITION: **Letter of Information**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) are providing a Letter of Information regarding SB 608. This bill outlines the process for individuals eligible to request U Nonimmigrant Status Petitions (U Visa) and the time periods within which certifying entities shall certify or decline the form I-918, Supplement B certification.

Under the amended version of SB 608, certifying agencies are allotted 45 days, as opposed to the original bill's proposed 30 days, to certify or decline certification of the U Visa application. Maintaining the 45-day timeline for processing and certifying U-Visa applications, as outlined in the current proposed bill language, is critical to ensuring compliance across all law enforcement agencies. While timely certification is essential for the protection of victims and the integrity of the U-Visa process, a timeline shorter than 45 days would create significant challenges, particularly for larger agencies managing a high volume of requests. Reducing the timeframe could lead to unintended noncompliance, delays, and administrative burdens, ultimately hindering the purpose of the certification process.

By preserving the 45-day requirement, the bill ensures that all certifying entities—regardless of size or capacity—can effectively fulfill their obligations under the law. This balance allows for both efficiency in victim protection and practical feasibility for law enforcement agencies to process and certify applications within a reasonable period. We urge the continued inclusion of this timeline to support compliance and the intended function of the U-Visa program.