



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Sandy Bartlett, Chair and
Members of the 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: February 10, 2026

RE: **HB 593 - Criminal Law - Interference With Critical Infrastructure or a Public
Safety Answering Point**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT HB 593**. This bill clarifies and strengthens existing law by explicitly criminalizing intentional interference with critical infrastructure. As reflected in the bill's structure, outdated or insufficient statutory language is removed, while new provisions are added to clearly define prohibited conduct and establish appropriate criminal penalties for actions that threaten essential systems relied upon by the public every day.

Critical infrastructure, including utilities, transportation systems, communications networks, and other essential facilities, is foundational to public safety, economic stability, and emergency response. HB 593 appropriately recognizes that intentional disruption of these systems poses serious risks not only to property, but to human life. By adding clear statutory language that criminalizes interference with critical infrastructure, the bill closes gaps in current law and ensures that dangerous conduct can be addressed before it escalates into widespread harm.

MCPA and MSA support the inclusion of the bill's language into existing law and believe that intentional interference with critical infrastructure should be treated as a serious criminal offense. HB 593 strikes the appropriate balance between modernizing the statute and strengthening public safety protections. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORTS HB 593** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.