



**MARYLAND CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION
MARYLAND SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION**



532 Baltimore Blvd. Suite 308
Westminster, MD
667-314-3216

532 Baltimore Blvd. Suite 308
Westminster, MD
667-314-3216

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chairman and
Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: Chief 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 15, 2020

RE: **SB 53 – Maryland Income Tax Refunds – Anne Arundel County – Warrant Intercept Program**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) SUPPORT SB 53. This bill would reinstate the Warrant Intercept Program in Anne Arundel County.

Legislation passed in 2012 to implement the Warrant Intercept Program in Anne Arundel County. In 2016, legislation passed authorizing all counties to implement the program with a termination/sunset date of September 30, 2019. Although legislation to continue the program failed last year, it was MCPA's and MSA's understanding that the program would continue in Anne Arundel. Due to an inconsistency in statute, Anne Arundel's program was also terminated. SB 53 is an emergency bill to continue Anne Arundel's program. MCPA and MSA fully support this continuation and intend to work with the Committee on separate legislation to reinstate this very effective program statewide.

The Warrant Intercept Program authorizes jurisdictions to participate in a specified income tax refund withholding program related to individuals with outstanding warrants if the sheriff of the county notifies the Comptroller of the county's intention to participate on or before December 31 of the first taxable year for which the county intends to participate.

Prior to the program being terminated, it was operational in the following jurisdictions: Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Harford, Howard, Prince George's and Washington Counties; and Frederick had expressed interest. According to a recent Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention report, 1,184 tax refunds were withheld for a total of \$816,429. The most common charges associated with the warrants include traffic offenses, failure to appear in court, assault, and destruction of property.

Sheriffs' offices are continuously looking for ways to reduce their warrant backlog, enhance safety for officers, and maintain strict fiscal accountability. This program has allowed them to achieve these goals. MCPA and MSA strongly encourages you to authorize this program to continue.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA SUPPORT SB 53 and urge a FAVORABLE Committee Report.