



# Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

## Maryland Sheriffs' Association



### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Chairman and  
Members of the Health and Government Operations 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:** March 10, 2020

**RE:** **HB 1524- Procurement and Correctional Facilities – Employment  
Opportunities for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals**

**POSITION: OPPOSE**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) OPPOSE HB 1524. This bill requires that specified procurements for goods and services at a State or local correctional facility, including procurements through master contracts, give preference to bidders or offerors based on the number of employees who are formerly incarcerated individuals.

While well intentioned, HB 1524 would only complicate the contract bidding processes for local correctional facilities and contractors. It requires contractors to submit reports, advertise job openings on a State website, hire formerly incarcerated persons by mandate, and develop new policy. It requires local government to accept bids only from contractors who meet these requirements and exclude those who do not. The burdensome requirements of this bill would likely deter contractors from bidding on these contracts. Ultimately, the bill makes the contract process lengthier, less competitive, and will not further the goal of increasing employment opportunities for former inmates.

Local detention centers offer many programs to assist inmates with gaining employment upon completion of their sentence. These efforts may include pre-apprenticeship programs, educational courses and other skills-based training. These efforts increase employment opportunities for former inmates, not make the contract process lengthier and less competitive.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA OPPOSE HB 1524 and URGE an UNFAVORABLE committee report.