



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chairman and
Members of the Judiciary 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 28, 2020

RE: **HB 128 Law Enforcement – Department of State Police – Body-Worn
Cameras**

POSITION: Letter of Concern

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) have not formally taken a position on HB 128, but would like to express concerns with the proposed approach of requiring the Department of State Police to purchase and issue body-worn cameras.

Pursuant to legislation which passed in 2015 establishing the Commission Regarding the Implementation and Use of Body Cameras by Law Enforcement Officer, the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission developed a policy for the issuance and use of body-worn cameras by law enforcement officers. The policy provides guidance for their use, but steps were not taken to require law enforcement agencies to purchase and use body worn cameras. These decisions were left up to law enforcement agencies working with their governing bodies. It was understood that costs may be significant and implementation difficult for smaller law enforcement agencies. Flexibility was provided to the police chief or sheriff to implement a body camera program meeting the needs of the jurisdiction within budget. Some law enforcement agencies are still struggling with identifying resources for this purpose.

MCPA and MSA believes this requirement should not be mandated for any law enforcement agency, as law enforcement, and county and municipal governments should have the flexibility to implement public safety programs within resources and budget.