



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: March 4, 2020

RE: **HB 1241-Firearms - Law Enforcement - Patrol Responsibilities (Retail
Firearm Business Protection Act)**

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **OPPOSE** HB 1241. This bill would mandate patrol strategy and place unnecessary requirements on police operational capabilities

Every day, law enforcement agencies across the State face difficult staffing challenges. Patrol supervisors have to prioritize assignments based upon existing circumstances. A rash of residential burglaries in a neighborhood, for example, warrants extra patrol checks of that neighborhood. A shooting incident or commercial robbery may cause an entire squad to respond.

HB 1241 is an attempt to address a serious concern. When a firearm business is burglarized, firearms are put into the black market and can end up in the hands of criminals. However, mandating nightly monitoring and inspection of all retail firearm businesses imposes an unreasonable and unrealistic mandate upon already understaffed agencies. Complying with the mandate every night necessarily means de-prioritizing other important public safety tasks and will decrease the ability of police to respond to emergencies.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **OPPOSE** HB 1241 and urge an **UNFAVORABLE** Committee report.