



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 3, 2020

RE: **HB 1144 Public Safety – Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission –
Procedures and Training**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) SUPPORT HB 1144. In 2016, HB 1016 abolished the Police Training Commission and re-established it as the Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC). Since that time the MPTSC's scope has expanded and many other training requirements have been incorporated. HB 1144 proposes to implement changes that improve the alignment of the Public Safety Article, clarifying the mission of the Commission.

These changes include:

- altering the membership requirements to allow the Secretary of the Maryland Department of State Police to serve as the ongoing Chair – currently the Chair is required to be elected annually;
- updating statute to allow for practices to be conducted in accordance with current technology (e.g. track certification electronically);
- aligning terms and definitions to what is currently used (e.g. SWAT to Special Tactical Response);
- establishing a schedule for job tasks analysis to be conducted to ensure the duties of police officers are consistent with job descriptions and identified tasks;
- aligning training requirements in a manner that prevents misinterpretation and places the responsibility of identifying current issues to be addressed with the Commission;
- adding deadlines to conditions that have been added statutorily over time;
- removing out-of-date language requiring the Commission to develop certain reports;
- adding language clarifying “every police officer must be certified by the Commission;” and,
- removing extraneous language about police officer certifications;

As specified above, HB 1144 updates and clarifies the requirements of the MPTSC regarding membership and procedures. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA SUPPORT HB 1144 and urge a FAVORABLE report.