



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser, Chair and
Members of the Ways and Means 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: February 4, 2020

RE: **HB 124 – 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 HB 124. 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. HB 124 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 HB 124 and urge a FAVORABLE Committee Report.