



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair and
Members of the Appropriations 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 10, 2021

RE: **HB 858 – Higher Education – Active Duty Law Enforcement Officers –
Tuition Exemption**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT HB 858**. This bill provides a tuition exemption for an active duty law enforcement officer if the officer lives and works in the state and is seeking a degree related to conflict resolution, community relations, or criminal justice.

As leaders of law enforcement agencies across the State, MCPA and MSA strongly supports all efforts to improve our officers through educational attainment and skills to enhance relationships with members of the community. As agencies find it harder to recruit new officers and good officers are deciding to leave the profession, benefits such as the one described in HB 858 will greatly assist with bringing officers into the profession and retaining them long term.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT HB 858** and urge a **FAVORABLE** Committee report.