



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: February 12, 2021

RE: **HB 727 Law Enforcement – Body-Worn Cameras - Capabilities**

POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT HB 727 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill requires the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to develop a policy to require law enforcement agencies, to purchase or procure body-worn cameras that have the capability to automatically record and save 2 minutes of audio and video footage immediately prior to the officer activating the record button on the device.

MCPA and MSA support the use of body-worn cameras by officers assigned to patrol officer and certain special duty assignments involving regular contact with the public. Best practices established by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Police Executive Research Forum recommend and support automatically recording and saving the previous 30 seconds of video once the camera is activated. The MCPA and MSA are concerned that two minutes is a significant period of time and audio/video captured may inadvertently and unnecessarily impose on privacy rights of officers and community members involved in non-enforcement activity. Further, it is a significant amount of footage to be redacted and stored potentially increasing agency expenses.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT HB 727 WITH AMENDMENTS** and urge a **FAVORABLE** report as amended.