



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 15, 2021

RE: **HB 809 – Public Safety – Use of Force De-Escalation Training of Law Enforcement Officers - Reports**

POSITION: OPPOSE

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) OPPOSE HB 809. This bill would require each law enforcement agency to report every two years to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention with the agencies' policies and procedures on use of force de-escalation training for its law enforcements officers. It also requires, as a part of the report, the number of reported incidents resulting in use of force and if any incident that resulted in the use of force ended in a fatality.

The MCPA and MSA contend that this training and reporting requirement are already required by State law and regulated by COMAR under **PSA 3-27**. Therefore, enactment of this legislation is not necessary to compel what the law already requires.

PSA 3-27 requires the following minimum academy and periodic in-service training regarding:

- Proper level and use of force [Commission required for entrance level and in-service training as determined by Commission]
- Antidiscrimination and use of force de-escalation training [Commission required for entrance level and every 2 years for in-service]
- Best practices and standards for use of force

In addition, 3-207(b) of the Public Safety Article requires the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to develop a system for the reporting of the number of serious officer-involved incidents each year, the number of officers disciplined each year, and the type of discipline administered to those officers. The Commission approved the reporting form last year and recently issued its first report using 2017 data. It can be found on the following website - <https://mdle.net/reports.htm>.

MCPA and MSA believe this bill is unnecessary as the components of the bill are already required under state law. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA oppose HB 635 and URGE an UNFAVORABLE Committee report.

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