



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair and
Members of the Budget & Taxation 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: January 27, 2022

RE: **SB 47 Pensions and Retirement – Forfeiture of Benefits – Law Enforcement Officers**
SB 141 Pensions and Retirement – Forfeiture of Benefits – Law Enforcement Officers

POSITION: OPPOSE

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **OPPOSE** SB 47 and 141. While the specified criteria for forfeiture may be different, both of these bills would provide for the forfeiture of a law enforcement officers pension for service earned after July 1, 2022.

MCPA and MSA strongly oppose these bills and believe they exhibit a lack of respect for the men and women who work in this profession. Further, they are an unnecessary and punitive measure to degrade the Law Enforcement profession.

The attempt to forfeit a Police Officer's vested pension and retirement benefits, provides an incredible disincentive for persons to enter into and remain in this profession. The pension benefits that have been earned throughout one's public service career, are contractually obligated as prior benefits similar to an IRA and are equally as critical to the Officer, Officer's spouse or partner and their dependent children, who will rely on these pension benefits as a source of income. This legislation is also inconsistent with State and Federal law protecting private pensions from forfeiture in the case of employee misconduct.

Maryland's law enforcement agencies are already experiencing difficulty in recruiting. Measures such as this will further deter individuals from going into this profession. These types of actions will make it more difficult to keep our communities safe, provide protection to victims, and properly investigate crimes.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **OPPOSE** SB 47 and SB 141 and urge an **UNFAVORABLE** Committee report.