



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William Smith, Jr., Chair and
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Chief of Staff 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, 2022

RE: **SB 397 Public Safety – Local Law Enforcement Coordination Council and
Coordinator and State Aid for Police Protection Fund**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 397**. This bill establishes the Local Law Enforcement Coordination Council and Coordinator position to provide a forum for local law enforcement to work collaboratively on public safety matters and solutions, identify best practices, develop model policies, share data, train the next generation of Chiefs and Sheriffs, and provide professional education opportunities for executive level staff. The bill also provides a 50% increase in state police aid to local jurisdictions statewide.

MCPA and MSA is very supportive of the permanent 50% increase in state police aid and the inclusion of Baltimore City in this funding. These additional resources will provide support to our local law enforcement agencies and allow them to focus on reducing crime, strengthening community relationships, and building upon public safety initiatives.

As described above, the Local Law Enforcement Coordination Council and Coordinator position will provide a forum for local law enforcement to work collaboratively on public safety matters and solutions, identify best practices, develop model policies, share data, train the next generation of Chiefs and Sheriffs, and provide professional education opportunities for executive level staff. While there is a Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC), a Law Enforcement Coordinating Council, and Regional Law Enforcement Councils, these entities have a broader focus and do not provide the type of model policy development, data collection, and training and professional development opportunities envisioned by SB 397. Modeled after the State's Attorney's Coordination Council, this formalized structure will fill these needs.

Many times, in policy discussions a question is asked about policies local law enforcement agencies have in place such as a model use of force policy or how many law enforcement

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agencies have body worn cameras. While regulations are adopted by the MPTSC for these policies, currently an entity does not work to specifically develop model policies for agencies or collect such data. While the MPTSC establishes training requirements for law enforcement officers, an entity does not focus on leadership training and professional development to ensure executive staff can effectively lead our law enforcement agencies of tomorrow. When new legislation is enacted, there is an expectation that all law enforcement agencies are informed and prepared to implement the changes, yet there is no formalized structure to educate agencies on the changes to be sure they are prepared. These are just a few examples of which the Local Law Enforcement Coordination Council and Coordinator will focus. Working closely with the Council Executive Committee composed largely of representatives from MCPA and MSA, the Coordinator will ensure these duties are performed and coordinate with other law enforcement commissions and councils as appropriate. It is envisioned that the Local Law Enforcement Coordination Council will meet throughout the year to discuss the model policies, data collection efforts, and benefit from leadership training and professional development opportunities.

The structure envisioned by SB 397 will also provide resources to carry out these functions. Following the enactment of police reform legislation last session, MPCA and MSA immediately began preparing training sessions to educate law enforcement agencies of the new legislation, requirements, and implementation dates. This was coordinated with the MPTSC to ensure there was no overlap in responsibilities. A total of 6 extensive, half day training sessions were led by a small group of Chiefs and Sheriffs. While effective, preparing for and hold these training sessions, took an extensive amount of time and more training sessions were really needed to fully educate agencies on the new laws. With additional resources, more training sessions could have been scheduled with smaller groups or trainers could have been used to assist. This is just one example of how the Local Law Enforcement Coordination Council and Coordinator position could be used.

As the MPTSC continues its work to develop regulations to implement police reform legislation, many more training sessions are going to be needed to ensure executive staff across all agencies properly implement these bills. MCPA and MSA believe this Coordination Council and Coordinator will be an integral part of these implementation efforts as well as other policy, data, and training initiatives.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA SUPPORT SB 397 and urge a FAVORABLE report.