



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: March 3, 2022

RE: **SB 785 – Department of Legislative Services – Collection of Information
Related to Public Safety, Criminal Justice, Corrections, and Juvenile
Services**

POSITION: OPPOSE

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) OPPOSE SB 785. This bill requires several data elements be reported to the Department of Legislative Services in an electronic format, some of which are currently reported through the Uniform Crime Reporting program, but many of which are not.

The State Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program follows the National UCR Program guidelines and collections for National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) (i.e. Crimes Against Person, Crimes Against Property & Crimes Against Society). Therefore, there are several fields in this bill that are not currently collected. As an example, NIBRS doesn't collect names, addresses, telephone numbers and zip codes.

To comply with this bill, Maryland State Police (MSP) would need to modify these systems to collect the required data, which is a time consuming and costly endeavor. NIBRS was recently modified (implementation took three years) for the State UCR Program in 2021, but local law enforcement agencies are still being certified to participate. This bill would trigger this significant, and costly effort to be undertaken again.

As the data being collected by MSP comes from local law enforcement agencies, agencies would also be required to assume significant costs for vendors to change software and hardware to be able to electronically report the new data sets to MSP for MSP to comply with SB 785. This is after budgeting significant costs to purchase a new Records Management System, for reporting crime data in compliance with the FBI NIBRS mandates

Also, previously mentioned, local law enforcement agencies are required to go through a submission and approval process to participate in NIBRS. Once the updated systems are developed and implemented, this bill would trigger that certification process again, which takes at least 6 months. Given the undertaking this bill presents, there is no way the state or local law enforcement agencies will be able to comply with this bill in the near future.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA OPPOSE SB 785 and urge an UNFAVORABLE Committee report.