

# **MCPA-MSA\_SB 652 Murder of a Police Officer\_Support**

Uploaded by: Andrea Mansfield

Position: FAV



# 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 15, 2022

RE: **SB 652 – Criminal Law – Murder of a Police Officer (Officer Keona Holley  
Public Safety Act**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 652**.

As police reform efforts and calls for increased transparency and accountability have been enacted across the country, so have senseless shootings of law enforcement officers. Law enforcement officers across the country, to include Officer Keona Holley in Maryland, have been ambushed simply because of their occupation. SB 652, Murder of a Police Officer, (Officer Keona Holley Public Safety Act) will change the sentencing requirements in certain circumstances to Life Without the Possibility of Parole. This critical change in the law will recognize the unique and often dangerous job that officers perform on a daily basis. This new penalty provision, even with the policing profession reforms, will show some clarity in how Maryland's Legislature values the incredibly complex, dangerous, and vital task of policing and maintaining safe communities.

The provisions in SB 652 will raise the potential sentencing from the current statutory guidelines to the potential for Life Without the Possibility of Parole. Most importantly, in the cases for individuals who conspire or commit murder in the first or second degree where the individual knows or should have reasonably known the victim is a police officer, as in the tragic death of Officer Holley, this is appropriate public policy.

For this reason, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 652** and urge a **FAVORABLE** Committee report.

**MTA Favorable SB652 3-15-22.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jenna Massoni

Position: FAV



# M a r y l a n d Troopers Association



INCORPORATED 1979

March 15, 2022

The Honorable Will Smith, Chair and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

**RE: SB 652 Criminal Law – Murder of a Police Officer (Officer Keona Holley Public Safety Act)**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

The Maryland Troopers Association (MTA) has a membership strength of over 2,500 members of which more than 1,000 are active sworn Troopers involved in traffic and criminal enforcement throughout the State of Maryland.

The MTA supports SB 652 which prohibits a person from committing or attempting to commit murder in the first or second degree of a police officer. We also support that a person convicted and sentenced under the provisions of this bill would be ineligible for parole.

The murder of Officer Keona Holley was a tragic and malicious act. We stand with our fellow Maryland law enforcement officers and feel this legislation is warranted and justified to protect our own. Therefore, the Maryland Troopers Association supports SB 652 and requests a favorable report.

Brian Blubaugh  
President  
Maryland Troopers Association

**Member of National Troopers Coalition**  
1300 REISTERSTOWN ROAD, PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND 21208 (410) 653-3885 1-800-TROOPER  
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**SB 652 BPD Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Michelle Wirzberger

Position: FAV



**Brandon M. Scott**  
Mayor

# BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



**Michael S. Harrison**  
Police Commissioner

TO: The Honorable Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Michael Harrison, Police Commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department

RE: Senate Bill 652 Criminal Law – Murder of a Police Officer (Officer Keona Holley Public Safety Act)

DATE: March 15, 2022

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore Police Department **supports** Senate Bill 652.

Senate Bill 652 provides for enhanced penalties for knowingly committing, attempting to commit or conspiring to commit murder in the first degree and murder in the second degree of a police officer.

This bill is a common-sense approach to establishing the certainty of punishment for those who would kill, attempt to kill or conspire to kill our police officers simply because they wear a uniform.

Officer Keona Holley was brave. She was selfless. She was committed to her community. She was the very embodiment of community policing. While every homicide is painful and a tragic loss to the community, I would assert that the murder of an officer while on duty, in uniform and in their police vehicle protecting their post, is an attack on society itself.

We ask much of our officers and their loved ones. Our officers take on an extraordinary risk to their own lives to apprehend those individuals who would do harm to our residents and visitors. Our officers' sacrifice holidays, birthdays and weekends with their own families in order to protect the families of others. Because of the risks that they take and sacrifices they make, we should ensure that they are protected and those that would do them harm are held accountable to the fullest extent possible. This bill provides that support and sends the unmistakable message that we will not tolerate the intentional, heinous killing of a police officer.

Therefore, the Baltimore Police Department respectfully requests a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 652.

# **SB652TalkingPoints.pdf**

Uploaded by: Senator Bob Cassilly

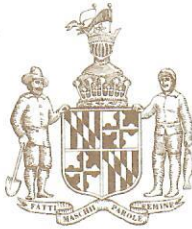
Position: FWA

**ROBERT G. CASSILLY**  
*Legislative District 34*  
Harford County

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Joint Committee on Administrative,  
Executive, and Legislative Review

Joint Committee on Federal Relations



**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

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March 15, 2022

**RE: Senate Bill 652 – Criminal Law – Murder of a Police Officer (Officer Keona Holley  
Public Safety Act)**

Dear Committee Members:

I request your support for SB 652. You are certainly well aware of the horrible murder of Baltimore City Police Officer Keona Holley back in December who was targeted and killed solely because she was a police officer. The purpose of this bill is to provide harsher sentences to those who intentionally target and kill someone just because they are a police officer. The bill removes all options of parole for those convicted of intentionally killing a police officer. The bill expressly excludes those cases where the killing takes place during the course of another crime, such as a robbery or drug transaction. The application of the penalty stated in the bill is limited to those whose intent is to hunt down and kill police officers. Our police officers are risking their lives every day to help keep our streets safe. To be targeted simply because they are a police officer is horrible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Cassilly", written over a white background.

Senator Bob Cassilly