



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair and
Members of the Judiciary 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 22, 2022

RE: **SB 31 – Public Information Act – Inspection of Records From Body–Worn
Digital Recording Devices**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 31**. This bill will establish requirements for the release of body-worn camera footage under certain circumstances.

SB 31 sets forth the circumstances under which a custodian of records, in accordance with Maryland's Public Information Act (PIA), must deny or allow inspection of recordings from a body-worn digital recording device worn by a law enforcement officer. The bill would require the custodian of records to deny inspection of records depicting victims of domestic violence, victims of rape or sexual assault, victims of abuse, and the death of a law enforcement officer that occurs while the officer is on duty.

The bill requires that the victim and/or their families be notified each time there is a request to view body-worn camera footage for the incident in which they are involved. SB 31 would protect the dignity of victims of these horrendous acts and would allow the victim and their families the privacy they deserve.

Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) believe the public should have access to the information outlined under the PIA, but support the efforts outlined in the bill to protect these victims from the release of footage that could harm them or otherwise adversely affect them.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 31** and urge a **FAVORABLE** Committee report.