



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: April 8, 2022

RE: **SB 389 Public Safety – Maryland Police Accountability Act Revisions and Clarifications**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 389**. This bill would clarify several requirements related to the police disciplinary established through legislation that passed last session.

Following the enactment of Chapter 59, Acts of 2021 (Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021), MCPA and MSA began holding training sessions across the State to educate law enforcement agencies of changes to the police disciplinary process and timelines. During these discussions, it became apparent that tweaks were necessary to ensure the uniform application of discipline and due process for officers in disciplinary matters. The collective bargaining provisions were also ambiguous as to whether they applied only to the process outlined in the bill for complaints coming from the public or internal complaints as well.

As amended by the Senate, SB 389 addresses these matters by clarifying the disciplinary matrix and the trial board process applies to both internal and external complaints; and collective bargaining may not be used to establish or alter any aspect of the process for disciplining a police officer. MCPA and MSA believes these are important changes for the uniform application of a police disciplinary process.

SB 389, as amended, also delays the effective date of certain aspects of the disciplinary process from July 1, 2022 to October 1, 2022. MCPA and MSA strongly supports this provision as well. The Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission has been working diligently on regulations and will continue to do so. Once draft regulations are approved by the MPTSC, they need to be published in the Maryland Register before being finalized. Once finalized, local jurisdictions can begin training individuals who will be sitting on police accountability boards, charging committees, and trial boards. Performing and completing these tasks are time consuming and the additional three months will greatly assist local jurisdictions with establishing this process.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA strongly support SB 389 and urge a FAVORABLE Committee report.

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