



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 1, 2022

RE: **HB 123 – Pensions and Retirement – Forfeiture of Benefits – Law Enforcement Officers**

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) OPPOSE HB 123. This bill would provide for the forfeiture of a law enforcement officers pension for service earned after July 1, 2022.

MCPA and MSA strongly oppose this bill and believe it exhibits a lack of respect for the men and women who work in this profession. Further, it is an unnecessary and punitive measure to degrade the Law Enforcement profession.

The attempt to forfeit a Police Officer's vested pension and retirement benefits, provides an incredible disincentive for persons to enter into and remain in this profession. The pension benefits that have been earned throughout one's public service career, are contractually obligated as prior benefits similar to an IRA and are equally as critical to the Officer, Officer's spouse or partner and their dependent children, who will rely on these pension benefits as a source of income. This legislation is also inconsistent with State and Federal law protecting private pensions from forfeiture in the case of employee misconduct.

Maryland's law enforcement agencies are already experiencing difficulty in recruiting. Measures such as this will further deter individuals from going into this profession. These types of actions will make it more difficult to keep our communities safe, provide protection to victims, and properly investigate crimes.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA OPPOSE HB 123 and urge an UNFAVORABLE Committee report.