



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, 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 1, 2022

RE: **HB 1184 Police Accountability Board and Administrative Charging Committees –
Municipal Corporations**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) SUPPORT HB 1184. This bill authorizes municipalities to establish their own police accountability boards and charging committees within the specifications provided for in legislation enacted last year, CH. 59, Acts of 2021.

Legislation passed last year establishes police accountability boards and charging committees at the county level and does not provide for any participation from municipal police departments. While two counties do not have any municipalities, most have at least one or more, and counties like Montgomery and Prince George's have more than 20. This structure means a county level police accountability board will receive and review complaints of police misconduct and a charging committee will decide whether an officer should be charged for officers not employed by the county, but a municipality. A county does not have authority over a municipality in these matters, nor does it employ their officers. This establishes an awkward relationship among these entities whereby the county is inserting itself into municipal operations and removing the chief of the municipal police department from the discipline process for the Chief's own employees. It also removes the duly elected municipal officials from their autonomy in managing their employees and accountability measures, as expected by their constituents.

Some municipalities, based on size and resources, may want to establish their own police accountability boards and charging committee, while others may not. HB 1184 authorizes municipalities to establish these bodies should they choose to do so.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA SUPPORT HB 1184 and urge a FAVORABLE Committee report.