

# **MCPA-MSA\_ SB-18-Police\_Retention-Workgroup\_SUPPORT**

Uploaded by: Andrea Mansfield

Position: FAV



# Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair and  
Members of the Appropriations Committee

**FROM:** Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee  
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee  
Natasha Mehu, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

**DATE:** March 21, 2023

**RE:** **SB 18 – Police Retention Workgroup**

### **POSITION: SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) SUPPORT SB 18. As introduced, this bill establishes a Police Retention Workgroup to identify and examine issues and factors potentially contributing to the decline in police officer retention statewide. As amended, it will also examine recruitment challenges and adds representation from MCPA and MSA.

Despite recent efforts at the State and local level, law enforcement agencies across the State are having difficulty retaining and recruiting officers. As introduced, HB 18 did not include representation from MCPA and MSA. However, it has been amended to do so.

MCPA and MSA support all efforts to expand the pool of eligible officers and retain those currently employed. Therefore, MCPA and MSA SUPPORT SB 18 and urge a FAVORABLE report on the bill as amended by the Senate.

# **SB 18 Cross .pdf**

Uploaded by: Christopher West

Position: FAV



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March 21st, 2023  
The House Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Ben Barnes  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Senate Bill 18 - Police Recruitment and Retention Workgroup**

Dear Chairman Barnes and members of the Committee,

Governor Moore has announced that public safety will be one of his top priorities. One of the crucial public safety issues at the moment is the fact that virtually every police department in the State is experiencing a record rate of vacancies among their uniformed officers. As a result, Maryland has, in effect, defunded its police without even passing a bill to implement such a policy.

In the Judicial Proceedings Committee, we heard testimony from the Chief of Police of Baltimore City stating that the Baltimore City Police Department currently has 465 vacancies. I understand from the Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police that the Baltimore County Police Department has about 225 vacancies at this time. Around the State, similar record-breaking vacancies can be observed at many police departments.

The Baltimore Sun recently published an article about U. S. District Court Judge James K. Bredar, who is overseeing the policing Consent Decree between the City and the federal Justice Department, announced that “insufficient staffing is the Police Department’s biggest obstacle to achieving compliance with the Consent Decree. Judge Bredar stated that “it’s essential” that the Police Department “stop the bleeding” in terms of its recruitment and retention.

Senate Bill 18 and the cross-file, House Bill 308 establishes a workgroup to better understand and mitigate the statewide decline in police officer recruitment and retention. There were several amendments to refine who will be on the work group, add cosponsors, and explore a “from high school-to-academy” apprenticeship initiative. This bill passed the Senate unanimously.

As elected officials, we have a responsibility to enact policies that empower our institutions of public safety to protect us in a legal and professional manner. Senate Bill 18/ House Bill 308 will better inform us on how to do so.

I appreciate the Committee’s consideration of Senate Bill 18 and will be more than happy to answer any follow-up questions the Committee may have.

**MTA Favorable SB18 3-21-2023.pdf**

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Position: FAV



# M a r y l a n d Troopers Association



INCORPORATED 1979

March 21, 2023

The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair and Members of the Appropriations Committee

RE: **SB18 - Police Retention Workgroup**

**POSITION:            SUPPORT**

The Maryland Troopers Association (MTA) has a membership strength of approximately 2,629 members of which 1,120 are active sworn Troopers involved in traffic and criminal enforcement throughout the State of Maryland.

Much like the rest of the country, in Maryland, police officer recruitment and retention is down. Applications to the Maryland State Police are down 33% over last year. This impacts every single aspect of our departments, our communities, and our state. While there are several factors that we have personally identified within the MD Troopers Association, we support the establishment of the Police Retention Workgroup to study issues and factors potentially contributing to the decline in police officer retention statewide.

The Maryland Troopers Association supports SB 18 and requests a favorable report.

Brian Blubaugh  
President  
Maryland Troopers Association