



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.