



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William Smith, Jr., Chair and
Members of the Judicial Proceedings 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 1, 2023

RE: **SB 580 – Public Safety – Officer and Community Wellness Training Grant
Fund**

POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 580 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill creates a fund to grant local law enforcement agencies with mental health first aid for public safety training and critical incident stress management peer support training.

MCPA and MSA appreciate the sponsor's intent and support the bill as it intends to provide targeted supplemental grant funding to local law enforcement agencies. However, both organizations are concerned with the definition of a "local law enforcement agency" used in the bill. To ensure that SB 580 properly applies to local law enforcement agencies, the definition found in MD Code, Public Safety, § 3-201 should be used.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 580 WITH AMENDMENTS** and request that the definition found in MD Code, Public Safety, § 3-201 be used instead of the "local law enforcement agency" definition used in the bill.