



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. 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: February 7, 2023

RE: **SB 185 – Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms Surrendered Under
Final Protective Orders**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 185**. This bill expands the data to be collected by the Maryland State Police Gun Center to include specific information on firearms surrendered under final protective orders issued in the jurisdiction of a law enforcement agency.

Under current law, individuals may file to seek a domestic violence protective order if experiencing abuse in a relationship. If granted, the protective order may impose restrictions on the alleged abuser such as prohibiting contact with the individual seeking the order. The final protective order may require the surrendering of any firearms in the alleged abuser's possession.

Although the final protective order requires the surrendering of firearms, under current Maryland law, data is not collected to determine if the firearms were actually surrendered. SB 185 would require the reporting of this data to ensure the firearms are surrendered, providing a higher level of relief to the individual seeking the petition.

Legislation that enhanced the Maryland State Police Gun Center last session by expanding its duties and responsibilities included funding is included in the budget for its operations and staffing. Incorporating the data elements required in SB 185 has been accounted for and local law enforcement agencies are ready and willing to report this data.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 185** and urge a **FAVORABLE** report.