



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: February 1, 2023

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

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) SUPPORT SB 18 WITH AMENDMENTS. This bill establishes a Police Retention Workgroup to identify and examine issues and factors potentially contributing to the decline in police officer retention statewide.

Despite recent efforts at the State and local level, law enforcement agencies across the State are having difficulty retaining and recruiting officers. As introduced, SB 18 has representation from the General Assembly, State Police, Public Defender's, Maryland State's Attorney's Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, the American Civil Liberties Union, and a citizen member; but no law enforcement agency leadership representation. As individuals who will be responsible for implementing initiatives to aid in recruitment and retention, MCPA and MSA respectfully requests that two representatives be added to the composition of the workgroup – one representative for MCPA and one representative for MSA.

MCPA and MSA support all efforts to expand the pool of eligible officers and retain those currently employed; and respectfully request to be represented as a part of this conversation. For this reason, MCPA and MSA SUPPORT SB 18 WITH AMENDMENTS to add a representative from each organization.