



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 14, 2023

RE: **SB 330 – Public Safety - Law Enforcement - Body-Worn Cameras**

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) SUPPORT SB 330 WITH AMENDMENTS. This bill would assist law enforcement agencies with the procurement of body-worn cameras and provide for a study of the cost and feasibility of implementing a statewide uniform storage and access system for the body-worn camera data of all law enforcement agencies,

MCPA and MSA appreciate the ongoing support of the sponsor to assist with funding and offer approaches to bring down the costs associated with implementing and maintaining a body-worn camera program. Body-worn cameras are a critical tool for law enforcement officers throughout Maryland. However, many of these agencies that are attempting to procure Body Worn Cameras are struggling with the prohibitive costs. With the hopeful passage of SB 330, law enforcement agencies will have the opportunity to obtain these tools and ensure proper transparency.

MCPA and MSA have been working closely with the Maryland Association of Counties on this bill as Centralized Resources for Body Cameras is one of MACo's legislative initiatives. Working with MACo, MCPA and MSA would like to offer the following amendments to further streamline the process of purchasing body cameras by allowing law enforcement agencies to piggy-back or opt-in to the provisions of a contract in place by the state Department of General Services.

Amendments

On page 2, line 19 remove “**AT THE REQUEST OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY,**”

On page 2, line 21, after the word “**CONTRACTS**” add “**FOR STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AS WELL AS LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OPTING TO USE THEIR PROVISIONS,**”

On page 2, line 27, after the period add “**(3) THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES SHALL INFORM LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF THE AVAILABLE PROVISIONS**”

Again, MPCA and MSA would like to thank the sponsor for his past and continued work on this issue and respectfully request a FAVORABLE Committee report on SB 330 with the described amendments.