



# Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chairman, and  
Members of the Judiciary 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 23, 2023

**RE:** **HB 731 Pensions and Retirement – Forfeiture of Benefits – Law Enforcement Officers**

**POSITION: OPPOSE**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) OPPOSE HB 731. This bill provides for the forfeiture of a law enforcement officer's pension.

MCPA and MSA strongly oppose this bill and believe it exhibits a lack of respect for the men and women who work in this profession. Further, it is an unnecessary and punitive measure to degrade the Law Enforcement profession.

The attempt to forfeit a Police Officer's vested pension and retirement benefits provides an incredible disincentive for persons to enter into and remain in this profession. The pension benefits that have been earned throughout one's public service career, are contractually obligated as prior benefits similar to an IRA and are equally as critical to the Officer, Officer's spouse or partner and their dependent children, who will rely on these pension benefits as a source of income. This legislation is also inconsistent with State and Federal law protecting private pensions from forfeiture in the case of employee misconduct.

Maryland's law enforcement agencies are already experiencing difficulty in recruiting. Measures such as this will further deter individuals from going into this profession. These types of actions will make it more difficult to keep our communities safe, provide protection to victims, and properly investigate crimes.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA OPPOSE HB 731 and urge an UNFAVORABLE Committee report.