



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair 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 21, 2023

RE: **HB 518 – Police Accountability Boards and Administrative Charging Committees –
Municipal Corporations**

POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT HB 518 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill would authorize municipalities to establish police accountability boards and administrative charging committees.

The Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 (CH 59, Acts of 2021), which establishes a statewide accountability and discipline process, requires each county to establish both Police Accountability Boards (PAB) and Administrative Charging Committees (ACC). Since its enactment, concerns have been raised by municipalities because they have no statutory role in the establishment or responsibilities of the PAB or ACC.

MCPA and MSA do not have concerns with municipalities establishing their own PABs and ACCs. However, MCPA and MSA want to be sure the lines of agency review and discipline are clear with respect to the county and municipal PABs and ACCs. As an example, a county police officer may be involved in an incident that may occur within a municipal jurisdiction. If a complaint is filed and adjudicated, it should be handled by the county PAB and ACC, not a municipal PAB and ACC. MCPA and MSA are seeking amendments to clarify that officers are subject to the PAB and ACC of the jurisdiction to which the officer is employed, not the PAB and ACC in the jurisdiction in which the incident and/or complaint occurred.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT HB 518 WITH AMENDMENTS** and offer to work with the Committee to develop the appropriate amendments needed.