



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair and
Members of the Appropriations 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 20, 2023

RE: **HB 618 – Police Recruitment and Retention Workgroup**

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) SUPPORT HB 618 WITH AMENDMENTS. This bill establishes a Police Recruitment and 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, HB 618 has representation from the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association, but not the Maryland Sheriffs' Association. As individuals who will be responsible for implementing initiatives to aid in recruitment and retention, MCPA and MSA respectfully request that a MSA representative be added to the composition of the workgroup. This would provide 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 requests MSA be represented as a part of this conversation. For this reason, MCPA and MSA SUPPORT HB 618 WITH AMENDMENTS.