



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith Jr., Chair and
Members of the Senate 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 28, 2024

RE: **SB 840 - Public Safety - Automatic License Plate Readers - Captured Plate Data**

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 840 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill seeks to modernize the storage of automatic license plate readers (LPR) while preserving the safety and integrity of the data that is captured.

SB 840 would alter the provisions of the law governing LPR data to allow for cloud-based storage of historical data. Currently, historical data is limited to data captured and stored in a database operated by the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC) or by a law enforcement agency. These are considered file-based storage systems. Under the bill, historical data could be stored on the cloud or continue to be stored through file-based systems. It gives law enforcement agencies the flexibility to update their LPRs to more contemporary cloud-based systems.

MCPA and MSA support the bill with consensus amendments from the sponsor and Maryland State Police (MSP). These amendments put forward several data protection measures. They ensure that the cloud-based historical data remains the property of the law enforcement agency; prohibit the data from being sold by the agency or the vendor; and prohibit the agency and vendor from uploading the data to any external entities. Additionally, the amendments extend the penalty provisions, operating and use procedures, and auditing requirements to the vendor contracted by the law enforcement agency.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 840 WITH AMENDMENTS** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report as amended.