



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair and
Members of the House Ways and Means 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: March 27, 2024

RE: **SB 540 - Education - School Mapping Data Program - Established**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 540**. This bill creates a School Mapping Data program and authorizes the use of Safe Schools Funds to provide grants to local school systems for this program.

SB 540 would allow local school boards in consultation with local law enforcement agencies to apply for funds through the Maryland Center for School Safety to produce school mapping data for each public school in the county. When an emergency occurs at a school, time is of the essence. Law enforcement has precious minutes to respond accordingly. The mapping data would provide accurate and up-to-date information on the school buildings and grounds so that first responders aren't entering the building completely blind and can coordinate appropriate entry or response.

Mapping data and funding created under this new program are critical in assisting first responders as they respond to emergencies at a school. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 540** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.