



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William 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 13, 2024

RE: **SB 44 – Safe Communities Act of 2024**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) SUPPORT SB 44, the Safe Communities Act of 2024. This bill modifies the eligibility for an incarcerated individual who is serving a sentence for a crime of violence, to a deduction that is no greater than ten percent of the incarcerated individual's aggregate sentence.

Under current law, an individual who is convicted and sentenced to a period of incarceration, is eligible for diminution credits immediately upon entering a Detention Facility and can earn deductions significantly reducing the initial criminal sentence, even for most crimes of violence. The MCPA & MSA understand the importance for incarcerated individuals to be able to earn credits for good behavior, through education courses, and other programmatic matters for inmates serving crimes not involving violence, however certain crimes of violence, as numerated in Criminal Law Article 14-101, should be of no greater deduction than ten percent of the incarcerated individual's aggregate sentence.

The MCPA & MSA have appointed representatives that continue to participate in the JRA Oversight Board to monitor and implement policy, but due to the existing diminution formulas, it unfortunately allows for significant reductions in sentences for a significant number of violent crimes.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA SUPPORT SB 44 and urge a FAVORABLE committee report.