



# Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

## Maryland Sheriffs' Association



### MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William Smith, Jr., Chair and  
Members of the 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 27, 2024

RE: **SB 1101 Scholarships and Police Officer Recruitment**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 1101**. This bill provides a mechanism for awarding scholarships to advance education within the profession of law enforcement.

SB 1101 creates the Police Officers Educational Benefit Scholarship I and II for current or former certified police officers who live in the state or their dependents. The bill also requires law enforcement agencies to develop and implement policies for recruitment at historically black colleges and universities in the state.

MCPA and MSA appreciate and fully support the intent of this bill to advance educational opportunities for those who pursue a career in law enforcement. Historically, increased education and training requirements have long been topics of discussion in policing in the United States. August Vollmer (1876-1995), advocated the development of college education programs in police science and standardized training for police academies in an effort to produce professional and educated officers and police chiefs. In the 1960s, both the Kerner Commission and the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice recommended education requirements for hiring officers in order to employ better-qualified officers. In the 2015 President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing report, one of the pillars called for educational standards and increased ethics training in order to develop professionalism in policing.

Scholarships provide a reasonable and responsible approach to fostering educational opportunities for those law enforcement officers who desire to pursue advanced education. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 1101** and urge a **FAVORABLE** Committee report.