



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair and
Members of the House Judiciary 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 26, 2024

RE: **SB 744 – Juvenile Law - Reform**

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH HOUSE REPORTING AMENDMENTS

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 744 WITH THE HOUSE VERSION OF THE REPORTING AMENDMENTS.**

As introduced, MCPA and MSA had concerns with the language on page 8, lines 26-30, that required law enforcement to complete and forward a written complaint or citation to the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) for processing if a child is taken into custody pursuant to the law of arrest. The concern was that once the filing takes place, the youth fall under the jurisdiction of DJS and law enforcement can no longer divert youth into diversion programs. These are programs law enforcement agencies across the state offer to youth to provide positive, supportive and effective services to divert offenders from the juvenile justice system and instead provide mentoring, counseling, and restorative justice.

The reporting requirements in SB 744 and its cross file, HB 844, were both amended to address this concern. Based on the reading of the language in each, the language of HB 844 seems to be clearer and easier to understand. Therefore, MCPA and MSA would like SB 744 amended to mirror the reporting language in HB 844.

MCPA and MSA are also very appreciative of both SB 744 and HB 844 being amended to add an additional representative to ensure MCPA and MSA are both represented on the Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform and Emerging and Best Practices.