



# Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. 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  
Samira Jackson, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: February 19, 2025

RE: **SB 827 - Juvenile Law - Confinement and Restrictive Housing - Limitations**

POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS SB 827**. The bill's primary objective is to prevent juveniles from being housed in adult correctional facilities where they may be exposed to adult inmates, which is critical to their safety, rehabilitation, and overall well-being. However, for the legislation to be truly effective, it must ensure that restrictive housing limitations are directly applied to the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS).

Adult correctional institutions are not designed to accommodate juveniles safely and lack the necessary infrastructure to maintain adequate sight and sound separation. Reconstructing these facilities to meet juvenile housing requirements would be prohibitively expensive, with estimated costs exceeding \$30 million—an impractical and inefficient solution. As a result, juveniles often remain in adult facilities for extended periods while awaiting transfer to appropriate juvenile placements, where they may be subjected to restrictive housing practices that fail to meet their developmental needs.

Rather than investing in costly modifications to adult facilities, efforts should focus on expanding and enhancing juvenile-specific facilities. These environments are better suited to providing age-appropriate programming, ensuring the separation of juveniles from adults, and fostering rehabilitation.

For these reasons, MCPA-MSA respectfully urges the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 827, with the necessary amendment to apply restrictive housing limitations to DJS. This amendment will help ensure juveniles receive proper care and placement essential for their rehabilitation and future success.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 827 WITH AMENDMENTS** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.