



# Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



## MEMORANDUM

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

**DATE:** February 12, 2025

**RE:** **SB 621 Courtroom Security – Minimum Adequate Security Standard**

**POSITION:** **LETTER OF INFORMATION**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) provide a letter on information on SB 621 for consideration by the committee. This bill establishes a minimum adequate security standard for all courthouse facilities in the State.

SB 575, (CH. Acts of 2024) established the Task Force to Ensure the Safety of Judicial Facilities to identify the minimum requirements for courthouse safety in different settings within the courthouse and to develop a legislative proposal to ensure the requirements can be met. Three Sheriffs served on this Task Force and SB 621 reflects its recommendations.

The additional staffing requirements recommended by the Task Force are costly. During Task Force deliberations it was discussed that these new requirements should be funded by the State and not place an unfunded mandate on the Sheriffs' Offices and local governments.

Maintaining the security of our courthouse is extremely important, but these requirements should only be implemented as State funds become available.