



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
Samira Jackson, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: March 26, 2025

RE: **SB 977 – Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access
to Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)**

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **OPPOSE** SB 977. This bill prohibits the distribution of “covered records” or the disclosure of personal information to any person or government entity for the purpose of federal immigration enforcement, unless the requester is in possession of a valid warrant.

This bill raises concerns due to its language, on page 2, lines 25-27, prohibiting the exchange of data for anything of value, which could have unintended consequences for law enforcement agencies and government transparency. Many agencies routinely charge fees for accident reports and responses to Maryland Public Information Act (“MPIA”) requests to cover administrative costs and ensure timely processing. By broadly prohibiting the exchange of data for compensation, the bill could inadvertently hinder agencies from recouping necessary expenses, placing a financial burden on already limited resources and potentially delaying public access to important information.

Additionally, the bill’s broad definition of “person” within the Business Regulation Article, which includes governmental entities, could create unforeseen regulatory and compliance challenges. Government agencies function differently from private businesses and applying the same restrictions to both may lead to operational inefficiencies or conflicts with existing laws and policies. A more precise definition would help clarify the bill’s intent while avoiding unnecessary obstacles for public institutions that rely on structured data-sharing practices to serve their communities effectively.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **OPPOSE SB 977** and urge an UNFAVORABLE committee report.