



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: February 25, 2025

RE: **HB 308 Criminal Law - Exception to Armed Trespass Prohibition - Retired Law Enforcement Officials**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT HB 308**. This bill establishes an exception to the prohibition against entering or trespassing on real property while wearing, carrying, or transporting a firearm for a retired law enforcement official who has retired in good standing from a law enforcement agency of the United States, the State or another state, or a local unit in the State or another state under certain circumstances.

The proposed bill is a necessary and reasonable measure that provides a critical exemption for retired law enforcement officials, allowing them to lawfully carry concealed firearms while respecting property rights. Law enforcement professionals dedicate their careers to public safety, often facing dangerous and high-risk situations. Even in retirement, these individuals retain their training, experience, and commitment to protecting their communities. By allowing retired officers in good standing, who meet strict credentialing and permit requirements, to carry concealed firearms, this bill recognizes their continued role in ensuring safety while maintaining clear safeguards against misuse.

Additionally, this legislation aligns with existing provisions that allow active law enforcement officers, military personnel, and correctional officers to carry firearms under certain conditions. Retired officers often remain targets due to their prior service, and permitting them to carry firearms can provide an added layer of personal security while also offering potential assistance in emergencies. Importantly, the bill does not override private property rights; property owners still retain control over whether firearms are permitted on their premises. By balancing public safety, responsible firearm possession, and individual property rights, HB 308 is a well-reasoned approach that enhances community security while respecting the rights of all Maryland residents.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT HB 308** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.

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