



# Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair and  
Members of the 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 4, 2025

RE: **HB 301 – Criminal Procedure – Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis  
and Search – Affidavit for Judicial Authorization**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT HB 301.**

HB 301 represents a crucial step forward in modernizing investigative tools while maintaining judicial oversight in forensic genetic genealogical DNA analysis (FGGS). By eliminating the requirement that law enforcement must first exhaust all reasonable investigative leads before seeking judicial authorization, the bill allows FGGS to be used more proactively in cases where the perpetrator's identity remains unknown. This change ensures that law enforcement agencies can apply advanced DNA technology at an earlier stage, rather than as a last resort, improving efficiency and increasing the likelihood of solving violent crimes such as homicides and sexual assaults. The requirement to establish that the suspect's identity is unknown before seeking judicial approval still preserves necessary legal safeguards, ensuring FGGS remains a controlled and accountable tool in criminal investigations.

Moreover, HB 301 enhances public safety by streamlining the investigative process and reducing unnecessary delays in identifying offenders. In cases where conventional investigative methods may take years to yield results, FGGS has proven instrumental in solving cold cases and bringing justice to victims and their families. By allowing investigators to pursue this method without first demonstrating the failure of other leads, Maryland aligns itself with best practices in forensic science while preserving the judicial oversight necessary to protect civil liberties. This legislation strikes a critical balance between investigative efficiency and ethical safeguards, reinforcing the state's commitment to both justice and due process.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT HB 301** and request a **FAVORABLE** Committee report.

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