



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Melissa Wells, Chair and
Members of the Government, Labor, and Elections 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 17, 2026

RE: **HB 420 - Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act**

POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT HB 420 WITH AMENDMENTS.** We recognize the importance of helping active-duty service members and their spouses maintain professional stability when relocating to Maryland, and we appreciate the bill's broader effort to modernize occupational licensing portability in a fair and practical way.

However, we strongly urge the Committee to adopt a clear public safety carve out that excludes law enforcement and other public safety certifications from the bill's out of state recognition provisions. Unlike many civilian professions, law enforcement certification is directly tied to public trust and the safe exercise of police powers such as detaining and arresting individuals. Accepting another state's certification standards without Maryland specific training and vetting could unintentionally weaken the rigorous safeguards that Maryland has put in place to protect communities.

Maryland has some of the most demanding law enforcement certification and training requirements in the nation. The certification process includes an extensive background investigation, truth verification measures, and medical and psychological examinations. In addition, Maryland officers must be taught, tested, and demonstrate mastery of over 700 specific objectives, and entry level academies must include at least 850 hours of training. Only five states require longer academies, while some states mandate as few as 400 hours. It is our belief that state has an objectives-based training program as extensive as Maryland's.

We respectfully request an amendment explicitly excluding law enforcement and other public safety careers from the bill's licensure portability provisions. With this narrow but critical change, HB 420 can continue to support military families while preserving Maryland's high standards for public safety and

law enforcement certification. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT HB 420 WITH AMENDMENTS** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.

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