



# 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:** March 10, 2026

**RE: SB 678 - 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 SB 678**. This legislation expands the circumstances under which law enforcement may utilize forensic genetic genealogy (FGG) in criminal investigations. Forensic genetic genealogy has proven to be a powerful investigative tool that assists law enforcement in identifying unknown offenders in serious crimes when traditional investigative methods and existing DNA database searches have failed.

Senate Bill 678 would be particularly helpful in cases where an evidentiary DNA profile has already been developed from a forensic sample but was unable to generate a match and could not be entered into CODIS because the profile failed to meet the required tier or core locus criteria. In these circumstances, investigators may have a viable DNA sample that still cannot be compared against existing databases using traditional methods. Allowing the use of investigative genetic genealogy in these situations would provide investigators with an additional pathway to develop leads, identify suspects, and pursue justice for victims and their families.

The bill also allows the use of this technology in cases where at least 15 years have elapsed since the crime was committed. While MCPA and MSA believe that a shorter timeframe could potentially allow investigators to assist victims and families sooner, the associations recognize that the 15-year provision reflects a careful effort to balance investigative needs with privacy considerations. Even with this limitation, the bill would still meaningfully expand the ability of

law enforcement to pursue cases that currently cannot benefit from investigative genetic genealogy.

Overall, Senate Bill 678 represents an important step forward in modernizing investigative tools available to Maryland law enforcement. By allowing investigators to pursue leads in cases that have otherwise reached investigative dead ends, this legislation will help advance justice, improve public safety, and provide long-awaited answers to victims and their families.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 678** and respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.