



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair and
Members of the 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: February 24, 2026

RE: **SB 746 - Police Discipline - Municipal Law Enforcement Agencies - Suspension
Pending Appeal of Trial Board Decision**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 746 WITH AMENDMENTS**. SB 746 makes a commonsense expansion to current law, by authorizing a police chief that serves a municipality to suspend an officer without pay while their appeal to a Trial Board is pending. Additionally, the bill includes language that allows a law enforcement officer to receive full backpay if they prevail on their appeal.

Under current law, an officer who is suspended without pay is only eligible for back pay when their matter is before an administrative charging committee (ACC), and the charges result in a finding of not guilty, an acquittal, a dismissal, or a nolle prosequi. However, there is no option for back pay when an officer has a pending appeal before a Trial Board. SB 746 authorizes a chief to suspend an officer without pay during the pendency of an appeal before the Trial Board, and not solely during the initial ACC investigation. Subsequently, the officer is entitled to receive backpay should they prevail on appeal to the Trial Board, instead of only for charges that come before the ACC.

MCPA and MSA believe this bill strengthens procedural fairness for officers who prevail on appeal and are ultimately vindicated. We would respectfully request that this bill be amended to include all police departments across the state, to ensure consistency and uniform application of discipline authority and financial restoration as applicable. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 746 WITH AMENDMENTS** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.