



# Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

## Maryland Sheriffs' Association



### MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Sandy Bartlett, 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: March 3, 2026

RE: **HB 113 - Criminal Procedure - Expungement of Records - Resisting Arrest and  
Making a False Statement to a Law Enforcement Officer**

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **OPPOSE HB 113**. HB 113 would add convictions for resisting arrest, knowingly making a false statement to a law-enforcement officer, and knowingly making a false identity statement while under arrest to the list of misdemeanor convictions eligible for expungement under the Maryland expungement statute. While the goal of expanding expungement opportunities may be well-intended, the inclusion of these particular offenses risks diminishing consequences for individuals whose conduct poses real danger to officers and the community.

Resisting arrest and making false statements to the police are not merely technical offenses; they directly interfere with the ability of officers to perform their duties safely and effectively. A false statement during an arrest can mislead investigators, delay justice, and compromise investigations. Permitting these convictions to be routinely wiped from a person's record sends a troubling signal that obstruction of justice and obstruction of law enforcement are eligible to be set aside like minor, low-harm offenses. This raises legitimate concerns among law enforcement professionals regarding the deterrent effect of Maryland's criminal code and the integrity of cooperation with police during critical incidents.

Furthermore, broad expungement of these offenses may hinder transparency and risk public safety in contexts such as hiring, background checks, and future court proceedings where knowledge of a history of resisting arrest or deception could be relevant. Law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies rely on accurate historical conviction records to assess risk, ensure community safety, and allocate resources effectively. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **OPPOSE HB 113** and urge an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report.