



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 5, 2026

RE: **HB 1152 - Department of State Police - Special Police Officers - Study**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT HB 1152**. This legislation takes a thoughtful and measured approach by directing the Maryland Department of State Police to conduct a comprehensive study of special police officers across the State. Rather than imposing immediate statutory changes, the bill ensures that policymakers are guided by accurate data, operational realities, and input from those directly involved in public safety.

Special police officers serve in a variety of roles throughout Maryland, often under differing standards and oversight structures depending on jurisdiction or employer. A statewide review of commissioning practices, training requirements, authority, and accountability mechanisms will provide clarity and promote consistency where appropriate. By requiring consultation with stakeholders, including law enforcement organizations, employers, and other impacted entities, HB 1152 ensures that any future recommendations are grounded in practical experience and operational feasibility.

Public safety policy is strongest when it is informed by comprehensive study and collaboration. HB 1152 reflects that principle. MCPA and MSA believe this bill is a responsible first step toward evaluating the current framework governing special police officers and identifying opportunities for improvement that enhance transparency, professionalism, and public trust while preserving effective law enforcement operations. For these reasons, MCPA-MSA **SUPPORT HB 1152** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.