



# 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 819 - Commission to Examine the Expungement Laws of Maryland**

POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT HB 819 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This Commission will provide an important opportunity to comprehensively review our State's expungement framework for issues of efficiency and equity, study comparable systems in other states, and develop recommendations for a more streamlined and equitable statutory scheme. Currently, Maryland's expungement laws impact public safety, victims' rights, rehabilitation, employment opportunities, and access to housing. These are all areas that deserve thorough, balanced evaluation. The creation of an expert, diverse Commission focused on these issues is a constructive step toward ensuring that our laws serve justice and promote community well-being.

At the same time, we respectfully request an amendment to ensure that the Commission includes a representative from law enforcement or a statewide law enforcement organization. Law enforcement agencies have unique insight into how expungement laws interact with public safety operations, record keeping, risk assessment, and officer safety. Including a law enforcement perspective will enhance the Commission's ability to evaluate the practical effects of existing law, and it will help ensure that any proposed statutory reforms appropriately balance rehabilitation objectives with community safety concerns. With this amendment, we believe the Commission can produce recommendations that are more comprehensive, practical, and informed by all relevant stakeholders.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT HB 819 WITH AMENDMENTS** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.