



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: February 4, 2026

RE: **HB 165 - Courts - Sheriffs' Salaries - Alterations**

POSITION: **Letter of Information**

The Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) appreciates the opportunity to submit a **Letter of Information** regarding **HB 165**.

MSA sincerely appreciates the Delegate's efforts to ensure parity and fairness in the salaries of our state's elected sheriffs, and his acknowledgement of the essential and interconnected roles the sheriffs and State's Attorneys serve within Maryland's public safety framework.

As drafted, however, there are several implementation considerations that may warrant further discussion. Sheriff salaries are established differently across jurisdictions. In some counties, salaries are tied to the State's Attorney; in others, they are linked to District Court Judges or set using an entirely different methodology. In addition, compensation decisions are often made in light of the fiscal condition of the jurisdiction in which the Sheriff serves. Given these dynamics, establishing Sheriff salaries solely by reference to the State's Attorney may not be workable or appropriate across all jurisdictions.

In some counties, existing local structures may also require carve-out language to avoid unintended inconsistencies, including situations where a Sheriff's salary could exceed that of the State's Attorney. While we support fair and appropriate compensation, we believe these matters may be more effectively addressed at the local level, or through local delegation bills, where counties can tailor solutions to their specific governance structures and fiscal realities.

We greatly appreciate the Delegate's support for Maryland's sheriffs and appreciate this committee's time and the attention given to this Letter of Information.

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