



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 24, 2026

RE: **HB 508 Public Safety - Police Accountability - Investigation Records Relating to Not Administratively Charged, Unfounded, and Exonerated Complaints**

POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT HB 508 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill requires that complaints regarding misconduct by a police officer be removed from the police officer's personnel record after a finding that the complaint was unfounded or exonerated.

HB 508 is a crucial step toward ensuring fairness and accountability in police oversight while protecting the reputations of officers who have been falsely accused. Under this bill, investigation records related to complaints that are determined to be "unfounded" or where an officer is "exonerated" will be removed from their personnel records after three years. This is a reasonable balance between maintaining transparency in police accountability and preventing officers from being unfairly stigmatized by baseless allegations. Law enforcement officers serve their communities under immense scrutiny, and it is only fair that records of complaints proven to lack merit do not follow them indefinitely, potentially impacting career advancement and public trust.

Furthermore, this bill does not erase accountability; it simply ensures that officers are not burdened with records of misconduct accusations that have been thoroughly investigated and dismissed. The three-year retention period still allows for necessary oversight while preventing long-term harm to an officer's professional integrity. By enacting this legislation, Maryland upholds both due process for law enforcement personnel and the broader goal of maintaining public confidence in police accountability systems. HB 508 is a thoughtful reform that strengthens fairness within the law enforcement community while preserving the integrity of police oversight.

Lastly, as drafted, the bill does not clearly provide for the full expungement and destruction of investigative records, leaving them potentially subject to Public Information Act requests. Limiting

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removal to personnel files alone allows these records to remain elsewhere, including ACC files, Trial Board records, or other departmental disciplinary indexes. This amendment is intended to ensure that all related records are fully expunged and destroyed, not just those contained in an officer's personnel file.

Additionally, the bill does not clearly provide for the removal of all investigative records from an officer's personnel record in cases when an officer is not administratively charged at all. Even when a law enforcement agency decides not to administratively charge an officer, the complaint remains on the personnel records as misconduct. The bill's current language provides for two very specific circumstances where all investigative records may be removed from an officer's personnel record but does not provide for situations where a complaint for misconduct is reported, and the law enforcement agency itself issues a determination not to administratively charge the officer. This amendment is intended to ensure that all complaints that are determined to be unsubstantiated, whether handled by the ACC, Trial Board, or managed internally, are removed from the officer's record.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT HB 508 WITH AMENDMENTS** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.