



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Sandy Bartlett, Chair and
Members of the House 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 835 - Criminal Procedure - No-Knock Search Warrants**

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **OPPOSE HB 835**. HB 835 would effectively eliminate the ability of courts to authorize no-knock search warrants and would require that warrants be executed only after law enforcement provides notice of their authority and purpose, regardless of the circumstances.

No-knock warrants are not routine or casually sought. They are a narrowly used tool reserved for exceptional, high-risk situations where advance announcement would create an unreasonable danger to officers, occupants, or the broader community. These warrants are typically associated with violent offenders, firearms-related investigations, or cases where there is credible evidence that announcing police presence would lead to armed resistance, destruction of evidence, or immediate harm. In these limited circumstances, the ability to execute a warrant swiftly and safely can prevent escalation and protect lives.

Maryland law already requires judicial oversight and significant safeguards before such authority is granted. No-knock entry is permitted only when supported by specific facts and approved by a judge, ensuring it remains an exception rather than the norm. HB 835 removes this carefully controlled discretion entirely, eliminating law enforcement's ability to respond appropriately to the most dangerous and time-sensitive situations. Additionally, the bill's further restrictions on the execution of warrants may create unnecessary operational barriers that could compromise officer and public safety during critical investigations. Accordingly, we believe HB 835 would undermine a necessary public safety tool and place officers and communities at greater risk. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **OPPOSE HB 835** and urge an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report.