



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Jheanelle Wilkins, Chair and
Members of the Ways and Means 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 11, 2026

RE: **HB 198 - School Systems - Reportable Offenses - Notification of Student as Suspect**

POSITION: **LETTER OF INFORMATION**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) submit this letter of information regarding **HB 198**. Law enforcement recognizes the importance of ensuring that reportable offense information is communicated in a manner that supports school safety, student services, and effective coordination among agencies, while also respecting confidentiality requirements embedded in juvenile justice law.

We note that the Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform and Emerging Best Practices, through the Juvenile Justice Processes and Systems Coordination workgroup, is actively taking up the issue of reportable offenses. The workgroup is currently developing a statewide work plan focused on establishing standardized notification processes for law enforcement and State's Attorneys, addressing information gaps during student transfers, and improving the overall flow of information from arrest through disposition. This effort also includes consideration of any statutory or regulatory changes needed to ensure timely, consistent, and appropriate information sharing.

Given the Commission's ongoing review and the depth of work already underway, MCPA and MSA respectfully defer to the Commission's recommendations as they continue evaluating best practices for balancing confidentiality protections with the need for coordinated responses that promote school safety and student support.