



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair, and
Members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Chief of Staff David Morris, Co-Chair, MCPA, Joint Legislative Committee
Sheriff Darren Popkin, Co-Chair, MSA, Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: February 8, 2022

RE: **HB 426 Vehicle Laws – Policies and Prohibition Against Discriminatory
Traffic Stops**

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **OPPOSE HB 426**. This bill proposes changes to the race-based traffic stops policy to be a model policy against traffic stops based on race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender identity or sexual orientation.

MCPA and MSA have many concerns with this legislation. Currently, race data is collected as part of a traffic stop on several specific race fields through E-TIX. The data collected is found on an individual's driver's license. This bill would expand these data fields to include information not found on a driver's license which means an officer would need to ask the driver questions to determine religion, national origin, gender identity or sexual orientation. This would likely escalate a situation and make individuals question the rationale for requesting this information. Some populations may be very hesitant to provide this information for fear of possible deportation or concerns with racial profiling.

Lastly, this bill seems to be counter to several other bills that have been introduced this session to prohibit law enforcement and other public entities from asking about citizenship or immigration status. This bill could be viewed as not following the intent of those bills.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **OPPOSE** HB 426 and urge an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report.