



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair and
Members of the Judicial Proceedings 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: March 1, 2022

RE: **HB 532 Criminal Procedure – Search Warrants**
HB 651 – Criminal Procedure – No-Knock Search Warrants – Repeal

POSITION: OPPOSE

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **OPPOSE HB 532 and HB 651**. These bills prohibit law enforcement from seeking a no-knock warrant under any circumstances. In addition, HB 651 removes sections of statute that were enacted last year by the General Assembly.

Legislation passed last year, Chapter 62, Acts of 2021, modified provisions related to No-Knock Search Warrants and the execution of warrants more broadly. These new requirements include written preapproval by a police supervisor and the State's Attorney, specific information be included in an application, and a limitation of the hours of execution, absent exigent circumstances. While MCPA and MSA may not view these new requirements as ideal, they provide for the use of a no-knock search warrant should law enforcement determine the circumstances of the case warrant the use.

Given the legislation that passed last year, MCPA and MSA is strongly opposed to further action to limit the use of warrants and prohibit the use of no-knock search warrants. This type of search warrant is a valuable tool for law enforcement and MCPA and MSA cannot support the elimination of this option.

For this reason, MCPA and MSA **OPPOSE HB 532 and HB 651** and urge an **UNFAVORABLE** Committee report.