



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbary, Chair and
Members of the Ways and Means 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 3, 2022

RE: **HB 146 – Education – Reportable Offenses and Student Discipline -
Alterations**

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **OPPOSE HB 146**. This bill would eliminate most mandatory notifications to school systems of student criminal behavior, including arrests. It also changes the notification requirement to state that the State's Attorney may notify a school system only after adjudication or conviction.

The reportable offense statute is intended to ensure law enforcement agencies and the State's Attorney's offices communicate with school systems at the time of arrest of specified crimes and then following the disposition of such charges. While school systems want to ensure programmatic response in the best interest of students, the reportable offense statute ensures the school system is informed and can respond accordingly to ensure the safety of students and staff following the arrest and before adjudication. HB 146 would prohibit a school system from doing so because they would not be informed of an arrest.

MCPA and MSA believe communication with the public regarding law enforcement actions is extremely important. This enables the public to take appropriate steps for their own safety. That same level of communication is important for school systems tasked with not only educating our children; but keeping them safe in a learning environment. Removing the mandatory notice to the school system of any student arrest and role of the State's Attorney to notify the school system of the disposition of a student's criminal case hinders the communication needed for response by the school system to benefit individual students and the entire community.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **OPPOSE** HB 146 and urge an **UNFAVORABLE** report.