



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair and
Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 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: **SB 238 Public Schools – Crossing Guards – Hiring and Budget Allocation**

POSITION: OPPOSE

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **OPPOSE** SB 238 . This bill imposes a local funding mandate on a jurisdiction to fund school crossing guards either through the school system or a local law enforcement agency.

The placement and funding of school crossing guards is a local decision. The school system takes many factors into consideration when determining where school crossing guards should be located and requests funding and approval of those funds through the county board and county's elected body – county executive, county council, commission, or combination thereof. This local discretion provides flexibility and cost factors to be considered.

Should a school system need assistance from local law enforcement to meet funding or training needs associated with school crossing guards, both entities should maintain the flexibility to discuss and negotiate if an arrangement makes sense. It should not be required that the law enforcement agency, whose budget is ultimately approved by the same elected body of a county, fund school crossing guards.

Children need to be safe going to and from school, but these types of decisions should be local decisions and not mandated on a county. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **OPPOSE** SB 238 and urge an **UNFAVORABLE** report.