



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William Smith, Jr., 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 15, 2022

RE: **SB 652 – Criminal Law – Murder of a Police Officer (Officer Keona Holley
Public Safety Act**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 652.**

As police reform efforts and calls for increased transparency and accountability have been enacted across the country, so have senseless shootings of law enforcement officers. Law enforcement officers across the country, to include Officer Keona Holley in Maryland, have been ambushed simply because of their occupation. SB 652, Murder of a Police Officer, (Officer Keona Holley Public Safety Act) will change the sentencing requirements in certain circumstances to Life Without the Possibility of Parole. This critical change in the law will recognize the unique and often dangerous job that officers perform on a daily basis. This new penalty provision, even with the policing profession reforms, will show some clarity in how Maryland's Legislature values the incredibly complex, dangerous, and vital task of policing and maintaining safe communities.

The provisions in SB 652 will raise the potential sentencing from the current statutory guidelines to the potential for Life Without the Possibility of Parole. Most importantly, in the cases for individuals who conspire or commit murder in the first or second degree where the individual knows or should have reasonably known the victim is a police officer, as in the tragic death of Officer Holley, this is appropriate public policy.

For this reason, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 652** and urge a **FAVORABLE** Committee report.