



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William Smith Jr., Chair and
Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Natasha Mehu, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: March 6, 2024

RE: **SB 940 – Motor Vehicles – Allowing Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle
and Reckless, Negligent, and Aggressive Driving**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 940**. This bill establishes increased penalties for reckless, negligent and aggressive driving.

Across Maryland, there have been continual concerns regarding the safety of our roadways due to reckless and aggressive driving. We have seen road rage incidents, deadly accidents in work zones, and intentional incidents to harm individuals with a motor vehicle. Many times, these are not an individual's first offense as we've seen in Montgomery County with the driver who intentionally harmed Sergeant Patrick Keep. This individual was charged with past incidents but continued to operate his motor vehicle recklessly and aggressively, putting others at risk.

SB 940 will increase penalties for reckless and negligent driving and expand aggressive driving to include new offenses such as failure to obey traffic control devices, overtaking and passing vehicles stopped for pedestrians in a crosswalk, and overtaking and passing school vehicles stopped and operating alternatively flashing red lights, to name a few. These and the others included in SB 940 are serious and dangerous offenses that create harm and put individuals at risk.

MCPA and MSA strongly support actions to deter this type of behavior. For this reason, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 940** and urge a **FAVORABLE** Committee report.