



# Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

## Maryland Sheriffs' Association



### MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. 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: February 6, 2024

RE: **SB 256 – Public Safety – Maryland Police Training and Standards  
Commission - Revisions**

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) SUPPORT SB 256 WITH AMENDMENTS.

This bill updates and modifies requirements and terminology for the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) relating to membership, procedures, and training for police officers. Specifically, the proposed legislation seeks to clarify mandated training requirements, deletes language mandating the Commission to develop training that has already been developed while specifying that the developed training shall be reviewed and updated regularly, reorganizes the language of the law that would improve alignment of mandatory training making annual tracking of mandatory training more efficient for both the Commission and the law enforcement agencies, and corrects language in § 3-210 specifying that a police officer's certification lapses annually.

MCPA and MSA support these provisions of the SB 256, but object to language in §3-204 that names the Secretary of State Police as the permanent Chair of the MPTSC. Currently, the Chair is elected annually from among the members which provides the opportunity for Chiefs and Sheriffs from across the State and others to serve in this role. It brings diverse perspectives to this leadership role and MCPA and MSA see no reason to change this process. MCPA and MSA respectfully request SB 256 be amended to maintain the current process by striking on page 5, line 11 beginning with "THE" down through "(B)" in line 12; and removing both brackets in line 12.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA SUPPORT SB 256 WITH AMENDMENTS and urge a FAVORABLE committee report as amended.