



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair and
Members of the Senate Budget and Tax 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 20, 2024

RE: **SB 850 – State Personnel - Line-of-Duty Death and Funeral Benefits**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 850**. This bill increases the line-of-duty death benefits and funeral benefits.

SB 850 increases the line-of-duty funeral benefit from \$10,000 to \$25,000 and beginning in FY26 ties adjustments to the Consumer Price Index (All Urban Consumers – United States City Average – All Items), as published by The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. Additionally, it increases the line-of-duty death benefit from \$100,000 to \$125,000 and beginning in FY26 also ties adjustments to the previously mentioned Consumer Price Index.

Regardless of the agency or uniform worn, the men and women of law enforcement and other public safety occupations have stepped forward on behalf of their communities and our state's citizens. Each one has taken an oath, a promise, to put the well-being of others first. As we have seen all too often, these professionals put their lives and safety on the line each shift, many being asked to make the ultimate sacrifice. This legislation recognizes and honors the sacrifice of public safety officers who die in the line of duty and merits their families with support. MCPA and MSA believe this is warranted and appropriate considering the dangerous work these individuals perform throughout their careers and their dedication to service to and protection of the public.

For this reason, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 850** and urge a **FAVORABLE** Committee report.