



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William Smith Jr., Chair 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 939 Criminal Law – Reckless Endangerment – Use of Motor Vehicle**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 939**. This bill alters the criminal code so that the use of a motor vehicle can be applicable to the crime of reckless endangerment.

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.

Currently, Maryland Criminal Law, section 3-204 excludes the use of a motor vehicle from being applicable to the crime of reckless endangerment. SB 939 repeals this exclusion of conduct to allow for the use of a motor vehicle to be applicable to the crime of reckless endangerment.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 939** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report as amended.