



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Chief 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: January 20, 2021

RE: **SB 101 – Criminal Law – Public Safety – Interference With Agencies and
Services - Prohibitions**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 101**. This bill expands existing prohibitions and establishes new prohibitions to protect against telephone misuse and cyber attacks that pose threats to Maryland's 9-1-1 system.

The General Assembly recently passed legislation to update state laws and financing to provide the flexibility and resources to deploy statewide Maryland's Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911). This legislation, which passed in 2019, was recommended by the Commission to Advance NG911 Across Maryland and was referred to as Carl Henn's law. SB 101 is based on the Commission's 2019 report which identified the need to update Maryland law to combat complex and sophisticated cyberattacks and telephone misuse that could disrupt or disable a public safety answering point (PSAP) operations that could lead to severe consequences to Maryland's NG911. The legislation includes critical updates to sections of the Criminal Law Article addressing the misuse of telephone facilities and equipment, unauthorized access to computer systems and software, and expanded prohibitions for making false statements to a PSAP.

As Maryland develops and implements NG911 these protections are needed to guard against cyber threats and vulnerabilities. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 101** and urge a **FAVORABLE** report.