



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger Chairman and
Members of the Judiciary 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: February 9, 2021

RE: **HB 187 Public Safety - Law Enforcement – Body-Worn Camera**

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) SUPPORT HB 187 WITH AMENDMENTS. This bill requires all law enforcement agencies to adopt policies and procedures for the use of body-worn cameras consistent with the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission and issue body-worn cameras for all police officers to use on duty on or before October 1, 2021.

MCPA and MSA support requiring body-worn cameras for all law enforcement agencies and requiring that policies adopted by the agencies be consistent with Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission policy and guidelines. This ensures uniformity and appropriate exemptions are made to the policies for undercover officers and other circumstances where it would not be appropriate for officers to use body cameras.

Two workgroups met during the interim, the Workgroup to Address Police Reform and Accountability in Maryland and the Law Enforcement Body Camera Task Force. Both workgroups recommended all law enforcement agencies implement body cameras by 2025. The latter group also made several recommendations regarding cost saving measures, funding, compliance/best practices, among others. Should the committee look favorably upon HB 187, MCPA and MSA request that the bill be amended to be consistent with the recommendations of these workgroups, in particular the 2025 implementation date.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA SUPPORT HB 187 WITH AMENDMENTS.