



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., and
Members of the 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 13, 2024

RE: **SB 345 - Vision Zero Advisory Commission - Establishment**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 345**. This bill strengthens the oversight and coordination of the State's Vision Zero efforts.

Law enforcement officers are often the first to respond to the scene of a roadway accident and are far too familiar with the carnage that can occur whether the accident involves vehicles, bicycles, or pedestrians. Vision Zero is a data-driven, Safe System Approach to eliminating death and serious injuries on state roadways. The approach comprehensively implements the best safety practices across all modes of ground transportation.

SB 345 establishes the Vision Zero Advisory Commission (VZAC) to advise the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) on the State's Vision Zero efforts. Specifically, the Commission is charged with advising the Governor and state agencies on the implementation of Vision Zero, ensuring best practices of traffic safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers are followed, prioritizing roadway safety and needs, identifying hindrances to the implementation and development of Vision Zero, as well as providing other relevant guidance on road safety.

The Commission includes many stakeholders critical to achieving the state's Vision Zero goals. MCPA and MSA are each represented by a member ensuring law enforcement has a voice at the table. As the Commission's findings and recommendations are to be reported annually, MDOT will be provided with timely information on specific issues and needs and can adjust the Vision Zero program accordingly to address them.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 345** and urge a **FAVORABLE** report.

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