



Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association

44 School Street, Suite 300
Boston, Massachusetts 02108



February 5th, 2024

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Representative Carlos Gonzalez, Co-Chair
Senator Walter F. Timilty, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
(Sent VIA Email Only)

Re: HB2338- An Act to Ensure Pay Parity for County Sheriffs' Correction Officers and Jail Officers

Dear Chair Gonzalez and Chair Timilty,

On behalf of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (MSA) and the fourteen duly elected Sheriffs of the Commonwealth, I write in my capacity as Executive Director to ask the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security to provide support of House Bill (HB) 2338- An Act to Ensure Pay Parity for County Sheriffs' Correction Officers and Jail Officers, sponsored by Representative James Hawkins and Donald Berthiaume.

This is a critical piece of legislation proposing significant changes to the job titles, salaries, and collective bargaining process for correction officers and jail officers within the fourteen county Sheriffs' Offices throughout the Commonwealth. Recruitment and retention of qualified employees in law enforcement have become increasingly challenging in recent times. The difficulties in attracting and retaining skilled professionals in the field underscore the urgency of taking meaningful steps to address the concerns and needs of those who dedicate their careers to ensuring public safety.

By recognizing the vital role played by correction officers and taking concrete measures to improve their job titles and compensation, this legislation offers a compelling incentive for individuals considering a career in law enforcement to choose the Sheriffs' Offices in Massachusetts. Moreover, the structured approach to salary equalization over the initial three fiscal years demonstrates a commitment to addressing the concerns of current employees.

This legislation will contribute to a fair and effective system that benefits both the officers and the Sheriffs' Offices they serve.

We respectfully request **the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security to report out favorably on this legislation.** Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you require additional information or have any questions.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Carrie Hill
Executive Director