



HARFORD COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF'S UNION

Local 838, International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO

PO Box 881, Bel Air, Maryland 21014

www.hcdsu.org

February 11, 2020

House of Delegates Appropriations Committee

Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair

House Office Building

6 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 588 – State Police Retirement System and Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System – Member Contributions

Dear Delegate McIntosh and Distinguished Members of the Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of over 300 members of the Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union, who are current participants of the Law Enforcement Officers Pension System (LEOPS), I respectfully ask that you SUPPORT House Bill 588.

A lifetime of dedicated service keeping communities safe should be rewarded with the ability to maximize personal contributions to reach financial goals for retirement. House Bill 588 would allow members of LEOPS who've reached the maximum retirement earnings to reallocate those state required contributions into a personal retirement strategy. Members would no longer have to pay into a fund that can no longer increase their benefit.

More specifically, members contribute 7% of their salaries for 32.5 years. Once members reach 32.5 years of service, they reach the maximum benefit and can no longer increase their retirement earning percentage, however; are still required to contribute at the same rate. When nearing retirement, it's critical for law enforcement to plan appropriately for life beyond the badge. The money which is being contributed to a pension plan at no benefit to an officer could be redirected to another investment and ensure a comfortable retirement after a long career of public service.

Therefore, on behalf of the members of the Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union, I am requesting that the honorable members of the Appropriations Committee vote FAVORABLY in support of House Bill 588.

Sincerely,

Aaron Penman

Aaron Penman

President

Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union