



Maryland Transportation Authority Police Lodge #34



President
James Kruszynski III



Lodge Attorney
Herbert Weiner

House of Delegates Appropriations Committee
Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 18, 2020

RE: House Bill 659 - Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System - Benefits (SUPPORT)

Dear Delegate McIntosh and Distinguished Members of the Appropriation Committee,

Maryland Transportation Authority Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 34 strongly supports House Bill 659

FOP Lodge 34 represents the brave men and women of the Maryland Transportation Authority Police and we are all members the Law Enforcement Officers Pension System (LEOPS)

House Bill 659 will increase the multiplier for years of credible service from 2.0% to 2.5%. This will allow members of the LEOPS system to retire with a maximum 70% benefit at 28 years of service instead of the current maximum 65% benefit at 32.5 years of credible service. Under the current benefit package LEOPS members who retire at 25 years only receive 50% of their salary while our brothers and sisters in the State Police Retirement System receive 63.75% of their salary with the same years of service.

This adjustment will allow members of LEOPS to finally receive a fair and long overdue level of PARITY with our brothers and sisters of the State Police Retirement System who already receive 2.55% for every year of service and achieve their maximum benefit of 71.4% at 28 years of service.

Our members perform the same exact job and assume the same exact risks every day in performance of their law enforcement duties and deserve fair and equitable treatment in the state retirement system.

Therefore, on behalf of the almost 600 members of Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 34, I thank you for your support and your FAVORABLE vote on House Bill 588.

Sincerely,

James Kruszynski
President
Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 34

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