



HARFORD COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF'S UNION

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

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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

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 659.

While there are many compelling justifications to support House Bill 659, perhaps the most glaring reason can be summed up in one word, PARITY. Simply put, two organizations, doing the same thing, under the same pension system, but receiving two starkly different retirement packages. This practice would not be acceptable under any other public domain and protected with fair labor standards.

To substantiate that point, members of LEOPS earn 2% of their salary per year of service. Therefore, at the minimum 25-year service retirement, LEOPS members will receive 50% of their averaged highest salaries. At 32.5 years of service, members of LEOPS can obtain maximum pension at 65% of their salary. To differentiate, members of State Police pension receive 2.55 % per year and at 25 years of service will receive 63.75% of their salary. At 28 years or service, state troopers could obtain maximum pension with 71.4% of their salary.

The State Pension system provides equity within every other membership type. For instance, all teachers receive the same pension, the same goes for state employees and judges. This cannot be said for law enforcement.

Therefore, fair is fair, and it's time to balance the State Retirement and Pension System with respect towards law enforcement. It's time to reward all state law enforcement equally for a lifetime of service so they can begin to equally plan for life beyond the badge.

Therefore, on behalf of the members of the Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union, I am requesting the members of the Appropriations Committee to vote FAVORABLY in support of House Bill 659.

Sincerely,

Aaron Penman

Aaron Penman, President
Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union