

August 8, 2019

The Honorable Steve Johnson
Maryland House of Delegates
215 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Delegate Johnson,

I have been a sworn member of the Harford County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) for more than 23 years and I currently serve in Law Enforcement as a Sergeant in the Patrol Services Division.

Prior to joining the HCSO I served over 20 years active duty in the United States Air Force, honorably retiring in 1996.

At the age of 62 I am now looking at retirement from the Sheriff's Office and researching my options.

I read in the Law Enforcement Pension Plan (LEOPS) Handbook that I am not eligible for the 5 years military service credit towards retirement because I receive a pension for my military service. However, had I served in the National Guard or Reserve, retired or will retire I would receive this benefit.

When I questioned this I was told that any changes in the State Pension Plan must be changed by Legislation. This is why I am contacting you.

I find the disparity between retiring from Active Duty Military and Guard Reserve inherently unfair. Both served our country honorably, and both should receive the same benefit. Additionally, I know of very few people that retire from active duty and start a second career in Law Enforcement, so the cost of this would be minimal.

Thank you for your time in regards to this matter. If you have any questions, I may be reached at 410 937-0334.

Sincerely,

Timothy D. Rumbaugh