

JACK BAILEY
Legislative District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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February 5, 2020

Senate Bill 303 - Property Tax Credit - Public Safety Officer - Definition

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 303 - Property Tax Credit - Public Safety Officer – Definition, which would expand the list of public safety officers eligible for local property tax credits.

Last year, I introduced a bill that expanded eligibility for this property tax credit to volunteer emergency medical technicians, and I thank this committee for your support of that bill. Following passage of that bill, I heard from other law enforcement officers who are employed by the State who are not currently included in the list of public safety officers who can receive this credit.

Under current law, counties and municipalities can give a property tax credit to a firefighter, emergency medical technician, correctional officer, police officer, or deputy sheriff employed full time by a public safety agency in the county or municipality where the individual resides. This property tax credit is also available to a volunteer firefighter or volunteer emergency medical technicians for a public safety agency in the county or municipality where the individual resides. Senate Bill 303 would extend eligibility for this tax credit to public safety officers employed by the State including, for example, Maryland State Police Troopers and Maryland Natural Resources Police. Senate Bill 303 would also add volunteer reserve officers for State and local public safety agencies to the list of individuals eligible for this credit.

This property tax credit is granted at the discretion of the county or municipal government. There is no state fiscal impact, and the impact on local governments is limited to those who choose to implement this credit.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 303. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill. Please contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Bailey'.

Senator Jack Bailey
District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties