



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

Maryland State Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Miller Senate Office Building
3 West
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 587 – State Police Retirement System and Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System – Member Contributions

Dear Senator Guzzone and Distinguished Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

On behalf of over 300 active and retired members of the Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union and their families, I respectfully ask that you SUPPORT House Bill 587.

A lifelong career in law enforcement can be physically, emotionally and financially difficult. Regardless, this is an expected toll, as most police don't enter into the profession for personal gain. Nevertheless, a lifetime of dedicated service keeping communities safe should be rewarded with an adequate pension for retirement.

State agency law enforcement contributes their entire career into a pension system to be afforded that opportunity. Pension contribution is a commitment that state police officers are willing to make for an opportunity to earn maximum percentage upon retirement. The question becomes, when contributions reach maximum potential earning prior to full retirement, should law enforcement still be required to contribute, while receiving no compensation. Plainly spoken, if an officer can no longer gain in a retirement system, why should they continue to contribute? Essentially, they would be paying for someone else's retirement. At a crucial age near retirement, law enforcement personnel should be doing all they can to invest in the future, and that same contribution that's receiving no benefit should be invested in an alternate beneficial financial plan.

Therefore, the Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union is requesting the honorable members of the Budget and Taxation committee to approve the ability of senior law enforcement personnel to stop paying into a system when they no longer receive a benefit, subsequently allowing them to reinvest those earnings to improve their financial future.

We ask that you and the members of Budget and Taxation support the first responders who spent their careers serving others by voting favorably on House Bill 587 – State Police Retirement



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System and Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System – Member Contributions and SUPPORT its passage.

Sincerely,

Aaron Penman

Aaron Penman, President
Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union