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LISA M. RIHA  
*Secretary*

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Chairman and Committee Members,

HB735

My name is Daniel J. Fickus, 35 year veteran/retiree of the Baltimore Police Department, Past President, Baltimore City Fraternal Order of Police and Board of Governors, Baltimore Retired Police Benevolent Association and finally, lifelong resident of the Land of Pleasant Living.

Baltimore City Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) represents over 4500 members and the Baltimore Retired Police Benevolent Association (BRPBA) 1600. Both FOP and BRPBA fully support HB 735, which lowers the eligible age for income subtraction/modification from 55 to 50 years of age.

2017, I testified favorably for HB 100 (Hometown Heros') that afforded a \$15,000 subtraction/modification to retirement pensions, and that it would not reduce valued resources, but maintain and generate revenues by stemming the exodus of retired police officers to non taxed pension states. That statement still holds true today.

I cannot relate to the entire State FOP membership, but I have several statistics relevant to Baltimore City Retired Officers.

1. Residing out of state, 2017 28%, 2019 24% and 2020 21%
2. Residing in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia 2017 54%, 2019 51% and 2020 48%
3. Residing in non taxed pension states, 2017 71% and 2020 81%
4. Widows of retired officers approximately 74% reside in non taxed pension states

Additionally, Baltimore Police Officers endure other fiscal abatements which have been rationale for their departure from Maryland to non taxed pension states.

1. The Baltimore Fire and Police Pension System sustained draconian modifications resulting in monetary reductions.
2. Recipients of Social Security are subjected, up to 60% reduction imposed by the Windfall Elimination Penalty (WEB).

Currently, the Baltimore police Department as of January 2021 has over 300 officers eligible to retire, that figure will increase after July 2021. With the passage of SB 573 we are hopeful that those members will redirect out of state relocations.

The facts and figures delineated, indicate that our retired officers relocation out of state is diminishing. When queried why, the response was the passage of income subtraction/modification legislation for retired law enforcement officers.

The Baltimore City Fraternal Order of Police and the Baltimore Retired Police Benevolent Association request your support in the passage of HB 735.

Respectfully,

Daniel J. Fickus, Past President, Baltimore City Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #3