



HARFORD COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF'S UNION

PO Box 881, Bel Air, Maryland 21014

www.hcdsu.org

The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair, Appropriations Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: House Bill 298 - State Police Retirement System and Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System –
Deferred Retirement Option Program – Alterations (SUPPORT)**

Dear Chairman Barnes and members of the Appropriations Committee,

The Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union supports House Bill 298. We represent over 300 sworn deputies of the Harford County Sheriff's Office who serve each day to keep citizens safe in Harford County and Maryland.

Recruitment and retention continue to be a challenge for law enforcement agencies across Maryland jurisdictions. Although law enforcement candidates enter the profession for many reasons, the ability to attain a reliable pension benefit is certainly a primary consideration for candidates and current members of the LEOPS plan.

House Bill 298 improves the DROP program by increasing the years of eligibility to 32 years of creditable service and increases the period to participate to 7 years. This change is done in a fiscally responsible manner and does not have a significant fiscal impact.

House Bill 298 takes an initial step to keep the LEOPS pension benefit competitive as we consider additional steps to improve the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the SUPPORT of the Harford County Deputy's Union today and we ask for a FAVORABLE report on House Bill 298.

Sincerely,
[Gerald Eaton Jr](#)
Gerald Eaton
Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union