

**SB 139 APR 03-21-2023.pdf**

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**State Law Enforcement  
Officers Labor Alliance**  
542 Ritchie Highway  
Severna Park, Maryland 21146



March 21, 2023

The Honorable Ben Barnes  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
121 House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 139 – State Police Retirement System and Law Enforcement Officers’ Pension  
System – Deferred Retirement Option Program – Alterations

Dear Chair Barnes:

The State Law Enforcement Labor Alliance (SLEOLA) is the exclusive representative for 1,757 active state law enforcement officers. We are writing in Support of Senate Bill 139. Our agencies have continued to have difficulties with recruiting and retention. Senate Bill 139 would assist with retention of officers and keep our valuable experience within law enforcement for several more years.

The Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) is a cost-effective option for retaining experienced officers. The Department of Legislative Services Fiscal Note shows a savings to the State of \$400,000 in FY 2025.

A survey was conducted with members of the Maryland State Police, Natural Resources Police and the Capitol Police, which are the majority of SLEOLA members along with Commissioned Officers, not represented by SLEOLA. The survey resulted in an overwhelming 89.1% in support of the extension.

I would ask the committee for favorable support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

David Lewis  
Vice President

cc: Members, House Appropriations Committee

**MTA Favorable SB 139 3-21-23.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jenna Massoni

Position: FAV



# M a r y l a n d Troopers Association



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March 21, 2023

The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chairman and Members of the Appropriations Committee

**RE: SB 139 State Police Retirement System and Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System– Deferred Retirement Option Program – Alterations**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

The MTA supports SB 139 which increases the maximum number of years of service that members of the State Police Retirement System can use to participate in the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) from 30 to 32; along with increasing the number of years that members of the State Police Retirement can participate in the DROP from 5 to 7.

Applications to the Maryland State Police are down 33% over last year. This proposed alteration to the DROP program would significantly benefit the state in retaining Troopers who have twenty five plus years of experience, knowledge and expertise as well as assist in new recruiting.

Troopers devote their lives to serving the people of Maryland and this legislation has the potential to benefit the retirement savings of members of the Maryland Troopers Association. This is not only well-deserved for the protectors of our state, but it could also be an incentive for recruitment and retention within Maryland State Police.

Therefore, we support SB 139 and urge a favorable report.

Brian Blubaugh  
President  
Maryland Troopers Association

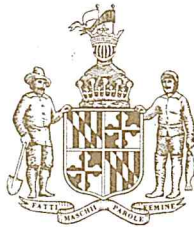
**Member of National Troopers Coalition**  
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# **JacksonSB139HouseTestimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Michael Jackson

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**MICHAEL A. JACKSON**  
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*Subcommittees*

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**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

*District Office*  
250 Merrimac Court  
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

***TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 139***

***STATE POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM – DEFERRED  
RETIREMENT OPTION PROGRAM – ALTERATIONS***

***APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE***

***MARCH 21, 2023***

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and Appropriations Committee Members:

Senate Bill 139 is a straightforward bill that increases the maximum number of years that members of the State Police Retirement System have to participate in the Deferred Retirement Option Program from 30 to 32 years and makes the required corresponding changes to that effect.

Most officers represented in the State Law Enforcement Officers Labor Alliance are a part the Law Enforcement Officers Pension System. The Maryland State Police max out potential benefits at 28 years of service, while those at other agencies that are a part of the Law Enforcement Officers Pension System max out at 32 1/2 years.

If a State Police Officer presently participates in the Deferred Retirement Option Program they must leave the agency at 30 years, while law enforcement professionals at other agencies can continue to earn multipliers for another 2 1/2 more years. This proposal would put the Maryland State Police on par with the majority of other agencies within the Law Enforcement Officers Pension System, and would allow them to reap the corresponding retirement benefits by reaching 32 years of service.

With State Police recruitment and retention efforts significantly lagging, this legislation would offer a cost-neutral enhancement to assist those efforts to recruit new officers and to retain experienced officers.

**For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 139.**