



**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