



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



February 7, 2023

Delegate Ben Barnes
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
121 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB 298 – 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 House Bill 298. Our agencies have continued to have difficulties with recruiting and retention. House Bill 298 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 previously testified that the DROP was in fact a cost savings item. The Fiscal Note reflects savings to the State of \$400,000.

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. Attached are additional charts to better understand the results of the survey.

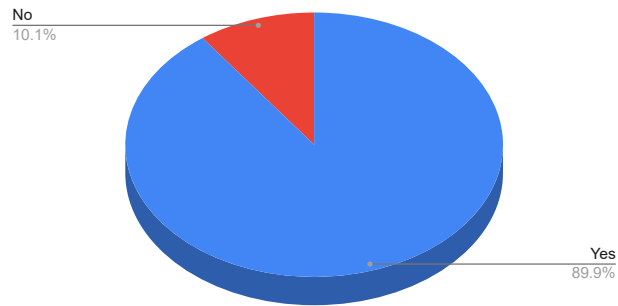
I would like to thank our sponsor Delegate Bridges and would ask the committee for favorable support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

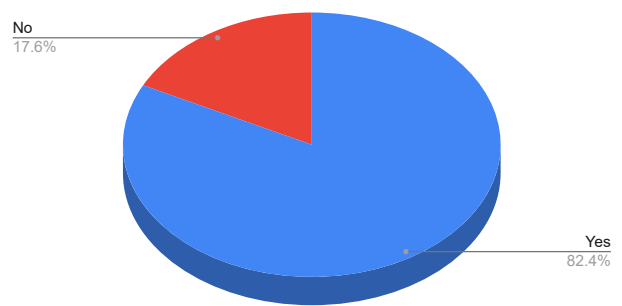
David Lewis
Vice President

cc: Members, House Appropriations Committee

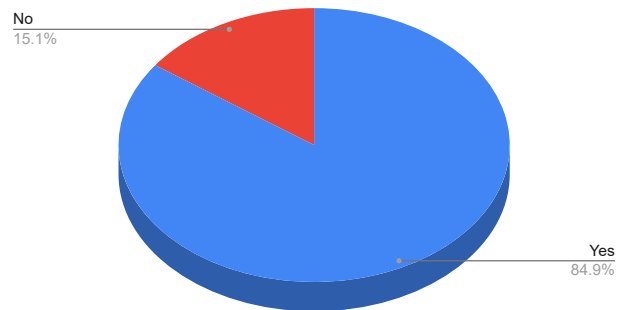
SLEOLA



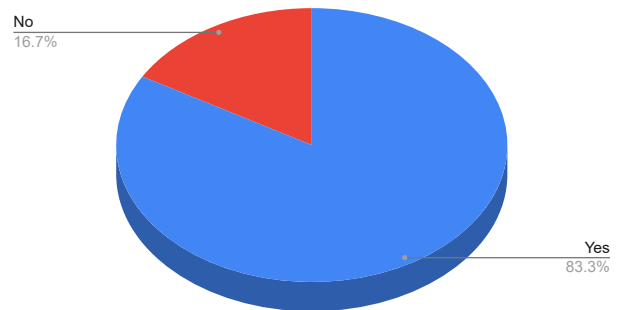
Minorities



Females



Commissioned Officers



Overall

