

HCDS139.pdf

Uploaded by: Barry Glassman

Position: FAV



HARFORD COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF'S UNION

PO Box 881, Bel Air, Maryland 21014

www.hcdsu.org

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Senate Budget and Tax Committee
Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Senate Bill 139 State Police Retirement System and Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System –
Deferred Retirement Option Program – Alterations (SUPPORT)**

Dear Senator Guzzone and members of the Budget and Tax Committee,

The Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union supports Senate Bill 139. 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.

Senate Bill 139 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.

Senate Bill 139 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 Senate Bill 139.

Sincerely,

Gerald Eaton Jr

Gerald Eaton

Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union

SB 139 B&T 02-02-2023 SLEOLA.pdf

Uploaded by: David Lewis

Position: FAV



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



February 2, 2023

Senator Michael A. Jackson
Chair, Pensions Subcommittee
Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 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 Jackson:

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 previously testified that the DROP was in fact a cost savings item. The Fiscal Note from an identical bill, Senate Bill 346 introduced in 2022, showed savings to the State of nearly a half million dollars.

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.

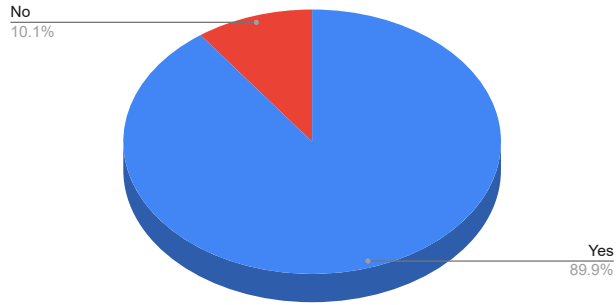
I would like to thank our sponsor Senator Jackson and would ask the committee for favorable support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

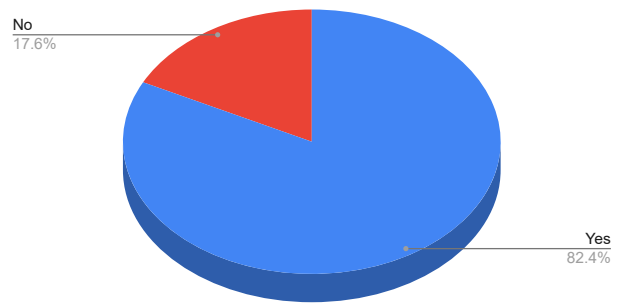
David Lewis
Vice President

cc: Members, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

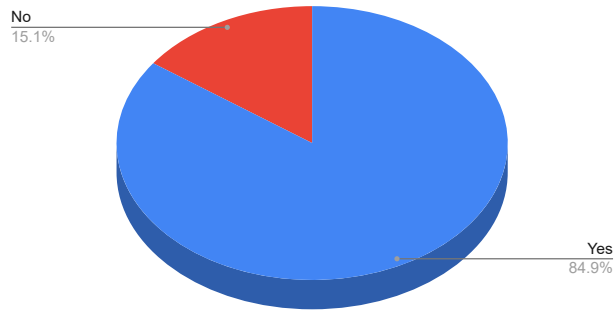
SLEOLA



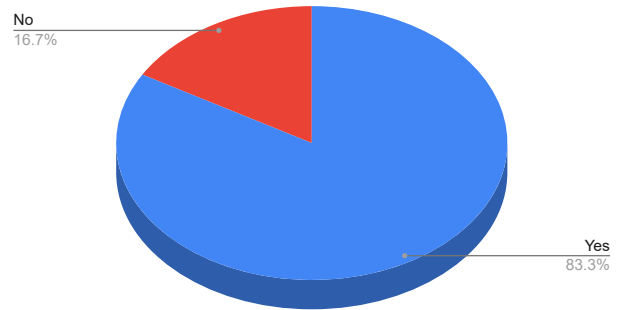
Minorities



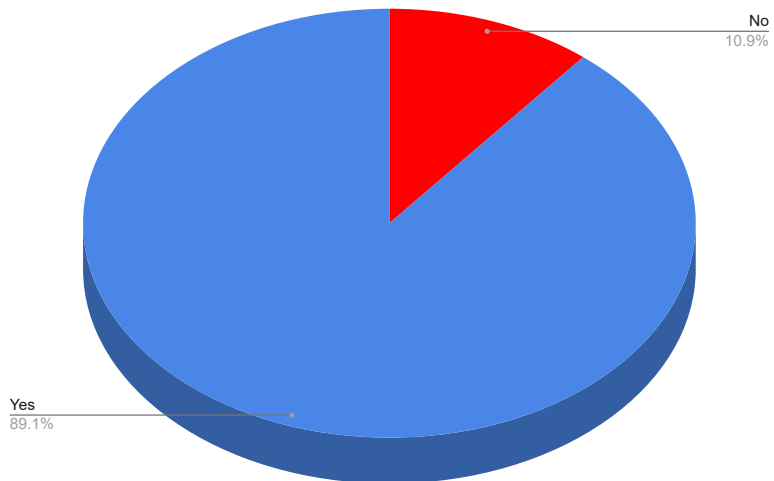
Females



Commissioned Officers



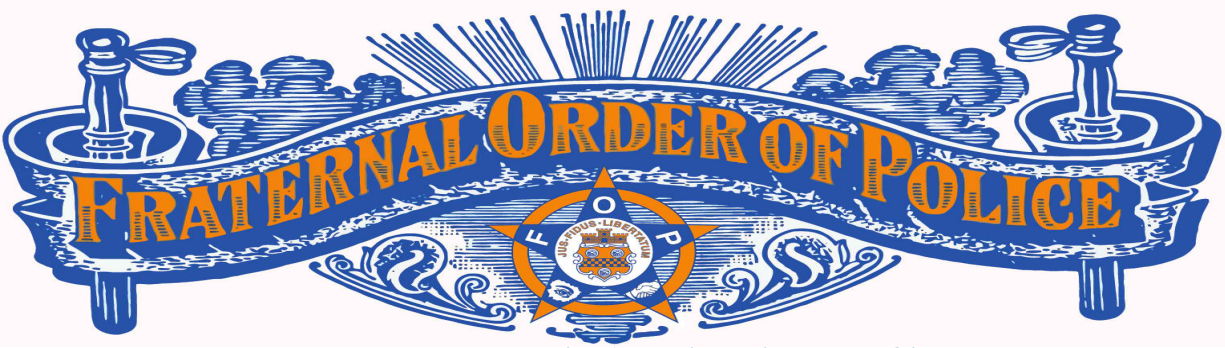
Overall



Senate Bill 139 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: James Kruszynski

Position: FAV



Maryland Transportation Authority Police Lodge #34



President
James Kruszynski III



Lodge Attorney
Herbert Weiner

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Senator Guy Guzzone Chair
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

January 31, 2023

**RE: Senate Bill 139 -State Police Retirement System and Law Enforcement Officers'
Pension System - Deferred Retirement Option Program - Alterations (SUPPORT)**

Dear Senator Guzzone and Distinguished Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

Maryland Transportation Authority Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge 34 strongly supports Senate Bill 139. FOP Lodge 34 represents the brave men and women of the Maryland Transportation Authority Police which is the largest agency in the Law Enforcement Officers Pension System (LEOPS).

Senate Bill 139 extends our Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) from a maximum of 5 years to a maximum of 7 years. This extension not only provides a DECREASE in financial liabilities and contributions for the State, it also provides some relief to Police agencies who are experiencing record numbers of early retirements by qualified veteran Officers which is contributing to record high Police Officer vacancies across the State. It's imperative that we equip our Police Agencies with competitive pension and benefit options in a effort to attract the best qualified applicants in an ever dwindling applicant pool. This small adjustment to our DROP program will provide LEOPS agencies a big step in that direction.

Therefore, on behalf of the almost 600 members of Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 34, I thank you for your support and your FAVORABLE report on Senate Bill 139.

Sincerely,

Jim Kruszynski
President
Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 34

MTA Favorable SB139 2-2-23.pdf

Uploaded by: Jenna Massoni

Position: FAV



M a r y l a n d Troopers Association



INCORPORATED 1979

February 2, 2023

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chairman and Members of the Budget and Taxation 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

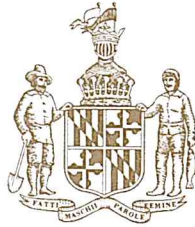
Member of National Troopers Coalition
1300 REISTERSTOWN ROAD, PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND 21208 (410) 653-3885 1-800-TROOPER
E-mail: info@mdtroopers.org

SB139JacksonTestimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Jackson

Position: FAV

MICHAEL A. JACKSON
Legislative District 27
Calvert, Charles and
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Budget and Taxation Committee
Subcommittees
Chair, Pensions
Public Safety, Transportation, and
Environment

District Office
250 Merrimac Court
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 139

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

BUDGET & TAXATION COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 2, 2023

Fellow Pensions Subcommittee 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.