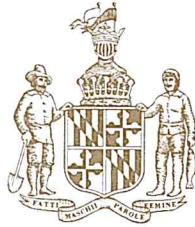


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**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

***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.**