

WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

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Julie M. Giordano County Executive Bunky Luffman
Director of Administration

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee Attn: Hon. Senator / Chairman Guy Guzzone 3 West Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: MD 2023 SB 68 Law Enforcement Officers' Pension - Crisfield Police Department

Senator / Chairman Guzzone & Senate Budget & Taxation Committee Members,

Please accept this as a letter of support for MD 2023 SB 68 Law Enforcement Officers' Pension - Crisfield Police Department.

As County Executive of Wicomico County, I have made a strong pledge to support law enforcement & public safety of our communities and citizens here in Wicomico County. In addition, I campaigned to take a regional approach to issues where my administration can help support our region. This bill does both, supporting the men and woman of law enforcement in our neighboring county, Somerset.

I applaud this bill and Senator Carozza's great efforts to support law enforcement & public safety. This bill will help with retainment and recruitment of police officers in the town of Crisfield by improving their pension system. We are seeing the problem with staffing shortages of police departments across our state, region, and county. For example, in Montgomery County, our state's largest county, their department is 8% shy of reaching its staffing goal, while here in Wicomico, we are 10% shy in our Sherriff's department.

A stronger police department in Crisfield means a safer Somerset County, which benefits Wicomico County and the region. As a sate and region, we owe our support to our brave men and women in blue who make the sacrifice every day to keep our communities & citizens safe.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the committee for a favorable report for MD 2023 SB 68 Law Enforcement Officers' Pension – Crisfield Police Department.

Thank You,

Julie M. Giordano

Wicomico County Executive