

SB 588 FINAL WR Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Giavante Hawkins

Position: FAV



MARYLAND SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTING AND TAX PROFESSIONALS

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Giavante' Hawkins
Executive Director

To: Budget and Taxation

From: The Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals

Re: SB 588

Contact Person: Giavante' Hawkins

Position: IN FAVOR

Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Public Safety Employee Retirement Income

On behalf of the Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals (MSATP), representing over 2,000 tax professionals serving hundreds of thousands of Maryland taxpayers, I write in strong support of Senate Bill 588 to increase retirement income exclusions specifically benefiting those serving communities in harm's way without due recognition.

Our police, fire, EMT, correctional, and other public safety officers perform grueling, risky duties enabling society to function - yet earn comparatively modest incomes that strain household budgets differently than other professions. Maryland began addressing this inequity in 2017, exempting the first \$15,000 of hard-fought safety pensions from state income taxes for those 55 and over.

While a good start, compounding medical bills, housing costs, and other late-in-life expenses strain already slim retirement means for many safety officers relative to private sector colleagues. Boosting the tax exclusion to \$20,000 meaningfully aids budget stability and honors sacrifices undertaken for others. Increasing the money available to taxpaying retirees is a good thing for Maryland.

As tax practitioners, the members of MSATP believe public policies must elevate those protecting society daily. We applaud Senate Bill 588 for furthering that moral obligation through our tax code. The Committee has an opportunity to demonstrate values benefiting many beyond partisan divides.

We urge a favorable report on this small but meaningful tax revision.

Thank you for your consideration.

Giavante Hawkins

SB558.pdf

Uploaded by: Mike McKay

Position: FAV

MIKE MCKAY
Legislative District 1
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



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Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Senate Bill 558 – Garrett County – Procurement – Bids and Contract

February 5, 2024

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chairman Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee,

The purpose of the bill is to increase the minimum dollar value of a contract advertisement by Garrett County from \$25,000 to \$50,000. The bill is a local bill and exempts contracts for professional services where the contractor must have a license by the State of Maryland. This will align Garrett County with State of Maryland's policy towards bids and contracts. I thank you all for your time and ask for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike McKay".

Senator Mike McKay

Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland

Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties