



Maryland Transportation Authority Police Lodge #34



President
Jim Kruszynski III



Lodge Attorney
Herbert Weiner

House Appropriations Committee
Delegate Ben Barnes
120 Taylor House Office Building
121 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 24, 2025

RE: House Bill 356 -State Prescription Drug Benefits - Retirees (SUPPORT)

Dear Chairman Barnes and Distinguished members of the House Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 34, representing almost 600 Maryland Transportation Authority Police Officers—active and retired—I write to strongly support House Bill 0356. This bill restores eligibility for prescription drug benefits under the State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program for retirees who began state service before July 1, 2011. We urge your support and swift passage of this vital legislation.

Over a decade ago, a policy shift moved state retirees reaching Medicare age to Medicare's prescription coverage, dramatically increasing costs for some who started before 2011—including many Lodge 34 members. These retired officers, who faithfully served the State of Maryland as Law Enforcement Officers, now struggle with higher medication expenses on fixed pensions. HB 0356 fixes this by returning them to the state's more reasonable prescription plan, ensuring they can afford essential care after decades of service. Our retirees deserve the benefits they were promised after a career protecting Maryland's citizens.

FOP Lodge 34 stands with our retirees, and this bill honors their dedication and lifetime of service to Maryland's citizens. We commend the sponsors and ask for your vote to advance HB 0356.

Thank you for supporting our retirees. We look forward to seeing this bill become law.

Sincerely,

Jim Kruszynski
President
FOP Lodge 34