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Health and Government Operations
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Public Health and
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony

HB744 Correctional Officers' Retirement System - Dorchester County

Appropriations Committee

3/18/2026

What This Bill Does

HB744 is a personnel and pension bill specifically designed to modernize the retirement structure for local detention center officers in Dorchester County. The bill allows officers enrolled in the Maryland Employees' Pension System the ability to transfer their previous years of service into the more specialized Correctional Officers Retirement System (CORS). CORS is specifically designed for public safety employees, offering retirement benefits tailored to the unique risks and responsibilities of correctional officers.

Why We Need This Bill

This legislation is a vital tool for recruitment and retention within Dorchester County's public safety workforce. Correctional work is physically demanding and high-stress, and the standard Employees' Pension System—often designed for general office or administrative staff—frequently requires longer years of service before a member can retire with full benefits. By moving these officers into CORS, the county can offer a retirement package that better reflects the hazards of the job, typically allowing for earlier retirement and better disability protections. Providing a pathway for officers to bring their "years of service" with them ensures that veteran staff are not penalized for the switch, helping Dorchester County stay competitive with neighboring jurisdictions and the state in maintaining a stable, experienced correctional workforce.

I respectfully ask the Committee for a favorable vote on **HB744**.