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Appropriations Committee

Subcommittees

Capital Budget

Education and Economic Development

Chair, Oversight Committee on Pensions



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The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB 789

Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System – Military Service Credit Eligibility

Testimony of Delegate Cathi Forbes

Appropriations

March 18, 2026

What this bill does

This bill allows a member or vested member of the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System (LEOPS) to earn military service credit toward their retirement pension.

Why this bill is necessary

Under current law, individuals who receive retirement benefits from the National Guard or Reserves are already eligible for this service credit. However, other military retirees with comparable service are excluded. There are Maryland State Police helicopter pilots who are members of LEOPS, and work side-by-side with colleagues who already receive this benefit. This is about creating parity among our military retirees.

Why you should vote for this bill

This legislation will equalize treatment for individuals who served our country. These veterans often bring critical and highly specialized skills and experience that are coveted in our public safety system. These are professionals we want to recruit and retain in state service.

I ask for a favorable report. It seems like the right thing to do. Thank you.