

**LOS - SB614 (HB744)-signed.pdf**

Uploaded by: irene barnes

Position: FAV

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY**  
COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
501 Court Lane, P.O. Box 26  
Cambridge, Maryland 21613  
(410) 228-1700

GEORGE L. PFEFFER, JR., PRESIDENT  
MIKE DETMER, VICE PRESIDENT  
ROB KRAMER, JR.  
WILLIAM V. NICHOLS  
RICKY C. TRAVERS



JERRY JONES  
COUNTY MANAGER  
MACLEOD LAW GROUP LLC  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

February 6, 2026

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Senator  
Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 614 - Correctional Officers' Retirement System - Dorchester County

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, I respectfully offer its support for Senate Bill 614 entitled, “Correctional Officers' Retirement System - Dorchester County,” for purposes of requiring membership in the Correctional Officers' Retirement System for certain local detention center officers of Dorchester County in the event Dorchester County becomes a participating governmental unit in the Correctional Officers' Retirement System; providing that certain local detention center officers who join the Correctional Officers' Retirement System and receive certain service credit shall no longer be members of the Employees' Pension System; and generally relating to Dorchester County's participation in the Correctional Officers' Retirement System.

Dorchester County supports SB 614 because participation in the Correctional Officers' Retirement System would strengthen recruitment and retention by making the County more competitive with surrounding jurisdictions that already offer this benefit. Correctional Officers perform uniquely demanding, high-risk public safety work, and access to CORS would provide equitable retirement benefits comparable to their peers in other counties and State facilities. This recognition of service supports employee morale, promotes workforce stability, and reduces costly turnover, recruitment, and training disruptions. Improved retention contributes to operational continuity within the Department of Corrections, enhances public safety, and reinforces community confidence in a well-staffed and experienced corrections system. While participation requires an investment, it also supports long-term fiscal responsibility through predictable retirement planning and reduced costs associated with vacancies, overtime, and repeated onboarding. Therefore, we respectfully ask that you look favorably upon this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter of support. If you have any questions, please contact the Council's Office at (410) 228-1700

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George L. Pfeffer, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

George L. Pfeffer, Jr.  
President

cc: The Honorable Johnny Mautz, Senator  
The Honorable Christopher T. Adams, Delegate  
The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes, Delegate  
The Honorable Tom Hutchinson, Delegate

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JERRY JONES  
COUNTY MANAGER  
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COUNTY ATTORNEY

February 6, 2026

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

RE: Letter of Support – House Bill 744 - Correctional Officers' Retirement System - Dorchester County

Dear Chairman Barnes and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, I respectfully offer its support for House Bill 744 entitled, “Correctional Officers' Retirement System - Dorchester County,” for purposes of requiring membership in the Correctional Officers’ Retirement System for certain local detention center officers of Dorchester County in the event Dorchester County becomes a participating governmental unit in the Correctional Officers’ Retirement System; providing that certain local detention center officers who join the Correctional Officers’ Retirement System and receive certain service credit shall no longer be members of the Employees’ Pension System; and generally relating to Dorchester County’s participation in the Correctional Officers’ Retirement System.

Dorchester County supports HB 744 because participation in the Correctional Officers’ Retirement System would strengthen recruitment and retention by making the County more competitive with surrounding jurisdictions that already offer this benefit. Correctional Officers perform uniquely demanding, high-risk public safety work, and access to CORS would provide equitable retirement benefits comparable to their peers in other counties and State facilities. This recognition of service supports employee morale, promotes workforce stability, and reduces costly turnover, recruitment, and training disruptions. Improved retention contributes to operational continuity within the Department of Corrections, enhances public safety, and reinforces community confidence in a well-staffed and experienced corrections system. While participation requires an investment, it also supports long-term fiscal responsibility through predictable retirement planning and reduced costs associated with vacancies, overtime, and repeated onboarding. Therefore, we respectfully ask that you look favorably upon this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter of support. If you have any questions, please contact the Council’s Office at (410) 228-1700

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George L. Pfeffer, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

George L. Pfeffer, Jr.  
President

cc: The Honorable Johnny Mautz, Senator  
The Honorable Christopher T. Adams, Delegate  
The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes, Delegate  
The Honorable Tom Hutchinson, Delegate

# **HB744 Testimony Correctional Officers' Retirement**

Uploaded by: Tom Hutchinson

Position: FAV

THOMAS S. HUTCHINSON  
*Legislative District 37B*  
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot,  
and Wicomico Counties



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Health and Government Operations  
Committee

*Subcommittees*

Public Health and  
Minority Health Disparities

Health Occupations and  
Long-Term Care

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**.