
By: **Senator Munson**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2001

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Retirement Benefits of Correctional Officers**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on Retirement Benefits of Correctional
4 Officers; providing for the membership, chairman, duties, and staffing of the
5 Task Force; requiring the Task Force to report to the Governor and the General
6 Assembly on its findings; and generally relating to the establishment of a Task
7 Force on Retirement Benefits of Correctional Officers.

8 Preamble

9 WHEREAS, In the last 5 years retirement benefits and eligibility requirements
10 for retirement of teachers, employees, various law enforcement officers, and State
11 police officers have been enhanced; and

12 WHEREAS, Retirement benefits and eligibility requirements for retirement of
13 correctional officers of the State and political subdivisions of the State have not been
14 reviewed for an enhancement in more than 5 years; and

15 WHEREAS, The recently enhanced retirement benefits of teachers, employees,
16 various law enforcement officers, and State police officers are sufficient to allow these
17 State employees to retire upon their acquiring the minimum amount of service credit
18 needed in order to receive an unreduced service retirement allowance; and

19 WHEREAS, The current retirement benefits of correctional officers may not be
20 adequate to allow correctional officers to retire after acquiring 20 years of service
21 credit without having to seek employment elsewhere to subsidize the retirement
22 allowance they will receive from the State; now, therefore,

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
24 MARYLAND, That:

25 (a) There is a Task Force on Retirement Benefits of Correctional Officers.

26 (b) The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

27 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President;

1 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
2 the House;

3 (3) the Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's
4 designee;

5 (4) the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the
6 Secretary's designee;

7 (5) a representative from the American Federation of State, County and
8 Municipal Employees;

9 (6) a representative from the Maryland Classified Employees
10 Association; and

11 (7) a member of the public who is knowledgeable about State retirement
12 and pension systems, appointed by the Governor.

13 (c) The Governor shall designate the member appointed from the public as the
14 Chairman of the Task Force;

15 (d) The Task Force shall:

16 (1) study the criteria for membership in the Correctional Officers'
17 Retirement System to determine whether there are other classifications of State
18 employees who should be included as members of this system;

19 (2) study the level of benefits provided to active members in the
20 Correctional Officers' Retirement System to determine potential options for
21 improving the current benefit structure for these members;

22 (3) study the level of benefits provided to retirees and beneficiaries of the
23 Correctional Officers' Retirement System to determine potential options for
24 improving the benefits received by these retirees and beneficiaries; and

25 (4) review the overall structure of the Correctional Officers' Retirement
26 System to generally determine any other improvements which could be made to this
27 system.

28 (e) Costs shall be borne by the State Retirement and Pension System of
29 Maryland.

30 (f) The Task Force shall be staffed by the State Retirement Agency, and notice
31 of each meeting of the Task Force shall be made public by delivering a copy of the
32 meeting notice to the Legislative Information Officer, Room B-6, Department of
33 Legislative Services, Legislative Services Building, 90 State Circle, Annapolis,
34 Maryland 21401-1991, at least 10 days before any scheduled meeting of the Task
35 Force.

1 (g) The Task Force shall issue a final report of its findings and
2 recommendations to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government
3 Article, to the General Assembly by November 1, 2001.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 June 1, 2001.