



Maryland Transportation Authority Police Lodge #34



President
James Kruszynski III



Lodge Attorney
Herbert Weiner

House of Delegates Appropriations Committee
Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 588- State Police Retirement System and Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System - Member Contributions (SUPPORT)

Dear Delegate McIntosh and Distinguished Members of the Appropriation Committee,

Maryland Transportation Authority Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 34 strongly supports House Bill 588

FOP Lodge 34 represents the brave men and women of the Maryland Transportation Authority Police who are all members Law Enforcement Officers Pension System (LEOPS)

Currently our members who have reached their maximum service credit at 32 1/2 years are obligated to continue to contribute toward the pension system even though they have reached their maximum benefit. Our tenured members who have reached this point in their career and are nearing retirement can't afford to continue to invest 7% of their salary with no return benefit from that investment. In today's climate of increased retirement healthcare cost and increased costs of living our near retirement age members would be better served placing their money into an investment option of their choice which provides a positive rate of return instead of continuing to pay into a system which has reached its maximum benefit. HB 588 will allow our members who are nearing retirement to stop contributing 7% of their salary into the pension system when they have reached their maximum benefit at 32 1/2 years.

On behalf of the almost 600 members of Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 34, I thank you for your support and your FAVORABLE vote on House Bill 588.

Sincerely,

James Kruszynski
President
Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 34

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