

MTA Position on SB303-20 - Property Tax Credit

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Maryland Troopers Association



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February 5, 2020

The Honorable William Smith, Chair and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
RE: SB 303 Property Tax Credit - Public Safety Officer - Definition

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Troopers Association (MTA) has a membership strength of approximately 2,629 members of which 1,120 are active sworn Troopers involved in traffic and criminal enforcement throughout the State of Maryland.

Current law authorizes a county or Baltimore City to grant a property tax credit to law enforcement personnel living and working in that jurisdiction. A Maryland State Trooper's jurisdiction crosses county borders as Troopers patrol and work around the state. The barrack that a Trooper works out of often changes over the course of their career. Regardless of where a Trooper may be working around the state they are also a significant part of the community in which they live.

SB303 has been introduced by Sen. Jack Bailey to authorize counties and Baltimore City to provide the property tax credit to active Maryland State Troopers living in that jurisdiction regardless of where in the state they may be working at that time.

Given the role that our Maryland State Troopers perform in the public safety of our counties and state we feel that this small change is warranted and justified.

Therefore, the Maryland Troopers Association strongly supports SB303 and request a favorable report.

Brian Blubaugh
President
Maryland Troopers Association

Member of National Troopers Coalition

1300 REISTERSTOWN ROAD, PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND 21208 (410) 653-3885 1-800-TROOPER
E-mail: info@mdtroopers.org

SenatorBailey_FAV_SB303

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JACK BAILEY
Legislative District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee



Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 402
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3673 • 301-858-3673
800-492-7122 Ext. 3673
Jack.Bailey@senate.state.md.us

District Office
Dorsey Professional Park
23680 Three Notch Road, Unit 101
Hollywood, Maryland 20636
240-309-4238

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 5, 2020

Senate Bill 303 - Property Tax Credit - Public Safety Officer - Definition

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 303 - Property Tax Credit - Public Safety Officer – Definition, which would expand the list of public safety officers eligible for local property tax credits.

Last year, I introduced a bill that expanded eligibility for this property tax credit to volunteer emergency medical technicians, and I thank this committee for your support of that bill. Following passage of that bill, I heard from other law enforcement officers who are employed by the State who are not currently included in the list of public safety officers who can receive this credit.

Under current law, counties and municipalities can give a property tax credit to a firefighter, emergency medical technician, correctional officer, police officer, or deputy sheriff employed full time by a public safety agency in the county or municipality where the individual resides. This property tax credit is also available to a volunteer firefighter or volunteer emergency medical technicians for a public safety agency in the county or municipality where the individual resides. Senate Bill 303 would extend eligibility for this tax credit to public safety officers employed by the State including, for example, Maryland State Police Troopers and Maryland Natural Resources Police. Senate Bill 303 would also add volunteer reserve officers for State and local public safety agencies to the list of individuals eligible for this credit.

This property tax credit is granted at the discretion of the county or municipal government. There is no state fiscal impact, and the impact on local governments is limited to those who choose to implement this credit.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 303. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill. Please contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. D. Bailey".
Senator Jack Bailey
District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties