



# M a r y l a n d Troopers Association



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The Honorable Sarah Elfreth, Chair and Members of Senate Pensions Subcommittee

**RE: SB 884 State Prescription Drug Benefits - Retiree Benefits - Revisions**

## **POSITION: SUPPORT**

The Maryland Troopers Association (MTA) has a membership strength of approximately 2,629 members of which 1,120 are active sworn members and 1,509 are retirees. It is organized into twelve Lodges located throughout the State of Maryland.

SB884 introduced by Senator Klausmeier defers until the second open enrollment period following the final resolution of the U.S. District Court injunction. The implementation of the action taken by SB946 during the 2019 Legislative Session and the 2011 Budget Reconciliation & Financing Act eliminated the State Prescription Drug Benefit Plan for retirees once they reach 65 years of age. While we understand the financial obligation that this action places on the State of Maryland, this was an obligation the State took on when hiring a Trooper and was understood by both the Trooper and the employer during their many years of service.

State Troopers began their careers with the understanding that Health and Prescription benefits would be provided to them during their employment with the state and continue through their retirement years based on eligible service time.

Troopers planned for their retirement based on these benefits and it is very unfair and disingenuous to change the benefit rules in the middle of their retirement years. Troopers put their lives on the line every day to serve the citizens of Maryland and the State has a moral obligation to keep the agreement that these officers expected, and the State promised.

Therefore, the Maryland Troopers Association supports SB884 and requests a favorable report.

Brian Blubaugh, MTA President

**Member of National Troopers Coalition**

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