



State Law Enforcement Officers Labor Alliance

February 17, 2022

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh
Chair, Appropriations Committee
121 House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: HB 748 – Law Enforcement Officers’ Pension System – Benefits
SUPPORT**

Dear Chair McIntosh and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

I am Veronica Bruns, a Corporal with the Maryland Natural Resources Police, and the Treasurer of the State Law Enforcement Officers Labor Alliance (SLEOLA) which is the exclusive representative for approximately 1,800 active state law enforcement officers, including eight agencies who are affected by HB 748: Maryland Natural Resources Police, Field Enforcement Bureau, Maryland State Fire Marshall, Maryland Capitol Police, Department of Health Police, Maryland Vehicle Administration Police, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Intelligence and Investigative Division, and the Warrant Apprehension Unit of the Division of Parole and Probation in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

I am here to testify in support of HB 748. Recruiting and retention continues to be a struggle in our state for all law enforcement agencies. In the past five years, an overwhelming number of agencies have seen recruitment drop from several thousand applicants to barely several hundred. In order to recruit and retain the most qualified law enforcement candidates, agencies must be competitive with their benefit packages.

House Bill 748 will increase the multiplier for years of credible service from 2.0% to 2.5% under the Law Enforcement Officers’ Pension System (LEOPS). This will allow members of the pension system to retire with a maximum of 70% benefit at 28 years of credible service instead of the current maximum of 65% benefit at 32.5 years of credible service. Under the current benefit package of LEOPS, members who retire at 25 years only receive 50% of their salary, while members of the Maryland State Police in the State Police Retirement System receive 63.75% of their salary with the same years of service.

The adjustment proposed under House Bill 748 would allow eight agencies represented by SLEOLA to receive parity with the Maryland State Police who currently receive 2.55% for every year of service and achieve their maximum benefit of 71.4% at 28 years of service.

Therefore, on behalf of the State Law Enforcement Labor Alliance, I would like to thank the sponsor of this bill and would ask the Committee for a favorable report of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Veronica Bruns
Treasurer

cc: Members, House Appropriations Committee