



## State Law Enforcement Officers Labor Alliance

February 22, 2022

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

**Re: HB 605 – Natural Resources Police Force – Hiring and Promotion Plan – Requirement  
Opposed**

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 the Maryland Natural Resources Police.

In SLEOLA's role as the exclusive representative in collective bargaining for the pay, benefits, and working conditions of the Maryland Natural Resources Police, we are Opposed to House Bill 605.

The promotional process is a mandatory subject of bargaining that SLEOLA has the sole responsibility to negotiate in the best interest of all of our represented members. During the negotiations of our current Memorandum of Understanding, the promotional process was referred to the Labor Management Committee for disposition.

In the interim, SLEOLA has continued to negotiate with management to make improvements to the promotional process. As part of these negotiations, both Natural Resources Police management and SLEOLA agreed we were hindered by provisions of the Personnel and Pensions Article that dictate the scope of the Natural Resource Police promotional process. As a result, other proposed legislation has been introduced that will allow more flexibility to improve the promotional process.

SLEOLA strives to have a fair and transparent promotional process for all of our officers. House Bill 605 removes SLEOLA from negotiating the promotional process and leaves it solely with Natural Resources Police management to decide their promotional plan.

Therefore, on behalf of the State Law Enforcement Labor Alliance, I respectfully ask the Committee for an Unfavorable report on House Bill 605.

Sincerely,

Veronica Bruns  
Treasurer

cc: Members, House Appropriations Committee