



Maryland Transportation Authority Police Lodge #34



President
James Kruszynski III



Lodge Attorney
Herbert Weiner

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Senator Guy Guzzone Chair
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

January 24, 2022

RE: Senate Bill 115 - Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System - Benefits (SUPPORT)

Dear Senator Guzzone and Distinguished Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

Maryland Transportation Authority Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 34 strongly supports Senate Bill 115. FOP Lodge 34 represents the brave men and women of the Maryland Transportation Authority Police and we are all members the Law Enforcement Officers Pension System (LEOPS).

Senate Bill 115 will increase the multiplier for years of credible service from 2.0% to 2.5%. This will allow members of the LEOPS system to retire with a maximum 70% benefit at 28 years of service instead of the current maximum 65% benefit at 32.5 years of credible service. Under the current benefit package LEOPS members who retire at 25 years only receive 50% of their salary while our brothers and sisters in the State Police Retirement System receive 63.75% of their salary with the same years of service.

This crucial adjustment will allow members of LEOPS to finally receive a fair and long overdue level of PARITY with our brothers and sisters of the State Police Retirement System who already receive 2.55% for every year of service and achieve their maximum benefit of 71.4% at 28 years of service.

Police Agencies across Maryland have expressed the monumental difficulty they are experiencing recruiting qualified applicants and the record low number of applicants who are applying are selecting the agencies with the best pay and pension packages. LEOPS needs to provide a Pension System that is comparable to our other State Law Enforcement agencies in order to recruit the best qualified police candidates from an ever diminishing pool of applicants.

Therefore, on behalf of the almost 600 members of Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 34, I thank you for your support and your FAVORABLE report on Senate Bill 115.

Sincerely,

Jim Kruszynski
President
Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 34