



# M a r y l a n d Troopers Association



INCORPORATED 1979

March 1, 2022

The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair and Members of the Judiciary Committee

RE: HB 123 Pensions and Retirement – Forfeiture of Benefits – Law Enforcement Officers

**POSITION: OPPOSE**

The MTA opposes HB 123 and the subjected forfeiture of retirement and pension benefits when a law enforcement officer is found guilty of, pleads guilty to, or enters a plea of nolo contendere to a qualifying crime committed while performing their duties.

As you are aware, the Maryland General Assembly passed several police reform bills last year, many of which include changes that still need to take place. It would be in the best interest of everyone to allow law enforcement officers to adjust to new practices and policies before discussing forfeiture of anything—especially benefits, that many have devoted years of their life of service to obtain.

The Maryland State Police, like many other agencies in this State, faces issues with recruiting well intentioned, competent officers to protect the citizens of Maryland. This legislation will further exacerbate that problem. If the State cannot ensure that law enforcement officers pension and retirement benefits are protected like every other citizen and employee in this State, then many may choose different careers.

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](mailto:info@mdtroopers.org)