



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

In Support of HB285
Property Tax Credit - Disabled Law Enforcement Officers and Rescue Workers - Federal
Police and Criminal Investigators
February 1, 2022, pm

Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Washington, and fellow members of the Ways and Means Committee, for the record - I am Delegate Dana Jones.

I come before you today to testify on simple, enabling legislation to expand an already existing tax credit to disabled federal officers.

Many counties in Maryland offer disabled state law enforcement officers and rescue workers a property tax credit. A majority of these individuals live on fixed incomes due to their injuries, and this tax credit provides financial relief to them and their families. Currently, this benefit is only available to state agents. HB285 would expand the benefit to disabled federal agents who were living in Maryland during their declaration as disabled, or anytime within five years prior.

This bill includes federal job series: 0083 Federal Police Officers or detectives for federal government agencies and 1811 Criminal Investigators for federal government agencies. Which includes Federal Officers from: the US Capitol Police, National Institute of Health, Department of Defense, Dept of Veterans Affairs, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Postal Service, U.S. Mint, Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), the Supreme Court Police, the Pentagon Police, Central Intelligence Agency to name just a few.

Last year, we watched in horror as insurrectionists stormed the capital. The only thing that stopped these violent actors from reaching our elected officials and their staff was the heroic actions taken by our Capitol Police Officers and Metropolitan Police. Over 80 capitol police officers were injured during the riot, and over 150 officers in total from several local agencies became injured as a result of the attack¹. Unfortunately, under the current law, counties would not

¹ [Police union says 140 officers injured in Capitol riot](#) [Washington Post, 01/27/2021; [The Capitol Police and the Scars of Jan. 6](#), [The New York Times Magazine](#), 1/4/2022]

be allowed to extend this benefit to these brave men and women who fought to preserve our democracy that dark day.

I believe extending this property tax credit to disabled federal agents shows how we value these Federal Officers from Maryland, their families and their dedication to our country. It shows our intent on retaining these brave men and women in Maryland as neighbors, community members and heroes.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on this enabling legislation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Delegate Dana Jones