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Appropriations Committee

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Capital Budget

Education and Economic Development
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The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB 601
State Police Retirement System, Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System,
and Judges Retirement System –
Surviving Spouse Benefit – Same Sex Spouses**

Testimony of Delegate Cathi Forbes
Appropriations Committee
February 28, 2023

What this bill does

This bill is simply corrective. It addresses the inequities in our system that existed before same sex marriage was legal.

Who benefits from this bill

Anyone in the State Police Retirement System, Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System and Judges Retirement System who named their same sex partner as a survivorship benefit before same sex marriage was legal, then, after it became legal, married that same individual. These individuals have not been given the spousal benefits that other retirees in these same systems received.

These benefits will be retroactive to the date of their retirement. Had their spouse been recognized as a legal spouse at the time of their retirement, they would not have had to take a reduction to their basic allowance to provide a survivorship benefit for their partner.

Why you should vote for this bill

This vote deserves your support if you want to be on the right side of history.
I ask for a favorable report.

Thank you.