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Harford County House Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB 929 – Law Enforcement Officers’ Pension System – Benefits**

**March 9, 2023**

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

HB 929 increases the normal service retirement benefit multiplier for members of the pension plan in the Law Enforcement Officers’ Pension System (LEOPS) from 2.0% to 2.5%, for creditable service earned after June 30, 2023. The bill also raises the cap on LEOPS normal service retirement payments from 65% of average final compensation (AFC) to 70% of AFC.

This bill would also enhance the retirement benefits for covered members by allowing them to retire with the maximum 70% of AFC rate after 28 years of credible service versus the current 65% of AFC rate after 32.5 years. This has the potential of increasing retention rates for current members and new hires.

Throughout the State of Maryland—and the country—law enforcement agencies struggle to recruit new hires and retain current officers. We must ensure that our State and local Law Enforcement agencies have access to the best qualified applicants to protect and serve our communities.

It is vitally important that we add enhancements to reward the outstanding service of our current law enforcement officers and to offer competitive retirement compensation to attract the very best recruits to join the ranks. HB 929 accomplishes this mission.

HB 929 is cross-filed with SB 264.

I respectfully ask for a favorable report from the Committee.

Sincerely,

Delegate Teresa E. Reilly  
District 35A  
Cecil and Harford Counties