



M a r y l a n d Troopers Association



INCORPORATED 1979

February 7 2023

The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chairman and Members of the Appropriations Committee

RE: HB 298 State Police Retirement System and Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System– Deferred Retirement Option Program – Alterations

POSITION: SUPPORT

The MTA supports HB 298 which increases the maximum number of years of service that members of the State Police Retirement System can use to participate in the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) from 30 to 32; along with increasing the number of years that members of the State Police Retirement can participate in the DROP from 5 to 7.

Applications to the Maryland State Police are down 40% over last year. This proposed alteration to the DROP program would significantly benefit the state in retaining Troopers who have twenty five plus years of experience, knowledge and expertise as well as assist in new recruiting.

Troopers devote their lives to serving the people of Maryland and this legislation has the potential to benefit the retirement savings of members of the Maryland Troopers Association. This is not only well-deserved for the protectors of our state, but it could also be an incentive for recruitment and retention within Maryland State Police.

Therefore, we support HB 298 and urge a favorable report.

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