



Bowie Lodge #140

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**Fraternal Order of Police**

PO Box 2, Bowie, MD 20719



**Kwok Kam**  
President

**Christopher Grimshaw**  
Secretary  
**Craig Mathew**  
Treasurer

March 24th 2023

Dear Chair Ben Barnes, Vice Chair Mark Chang and esteemed members of the Appropriations Committee:

**Senate Bill 0641: Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System – City of Bowie Police Department Transfers and Purchases of Service**

My name is Craig Mathew, I am currently a Police Officer at The City of Bowie Police Department. I was hired in the Summer of 2014. Prior to working for the City of Bowie Police Department, I worked for the Anne Arundel County Police Department. I started my carrier with Anne Arundel County Police in the Fall of 2012. At that time, I started paying into the Anne Arundel County Police Pension system. When I left and came to the Bowie Police Department, I had no break in service and started the following week after leaving Anne Arundel County. On the first day of employment, I had orientation with Human Resources. When I inquired about transferring my time from Anne Arundel County, I was advised that I had to buy that on the back end of my service with Bowie. As a result of this information, I never withdrew this money and left it in Anne Arundel County's Pension system. However, the truth is that I should have been able to purchase my credited service at the start of my employment with the City of Bowie in 2014. This mistake has been acknowledged by the City of Bowie, however at this time there is no remedy other than to be forced to pay interest and penalties for not purchasing this time on the beginning of my service and waiting until the end. These sums, depending on the time purchased by an officer, can be in excess of tens to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The passage of Senate Bill 0641 will allow me to purchase an estimated 24 months of credited service I am entitled to, free and clear of the interest and penalties that would otherwise be due without passage of this bill. This is a one-time fix for the under 20 officers on the agency that this affects and has no future bearing on any other member of the agency. I encourage you to cast a vote of **FAVORABLE** for SB 0641 which will allow myself and my fellow officers the opportunity to fix the mistake and make our pensions whole without penalty to us.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 0641.

Fraternally,

Craig Mathew  
Treasurer  
Bowie FOP Lodge #140