



**State Law Enforcement
Officers Labor Alliance**
542 Ritchie Highway
Severna Park, Maryland 21146



March 9, 2023

The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair, Appropriations Committee
121 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB 929 – Law Enforcement Officers’ Pension System – Benefits

Dear Chair Barnes:

The State Law Enforcement Labor Alliance (SLEOLA) is the exclusive representative for 1,757 active state law enforcement officers, including the following Law Enforcement Officers Pension System agencies:

- Maryland Natural Resources Police
- Field Enforcement Bureau
- Maryland State Fire Marshall
- Maryland Capitol Police
- Department of Health Police
- Maryland Vehicle Administration Police
- Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Intelligence and Investigative Division
- Warrant Apprehension Unit of the Division of Parole and Probation in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

SLEOLA is also the exclusive representative for the Maryland State Police, who are under the State Police Retirement and Pension System. We are writing in support of House Bill 929.

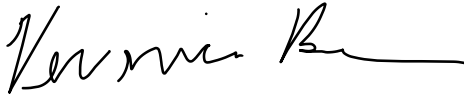
Recruiting and retention continues to be a struggle in our state for all law enforcement agencies. In the past five years, an overwhelming number of agencies have seen recruitment drop from several thousand applicants to barely several hundred. In order to recruit and retain the most qualified law enforcement candidates, agencies must be competitive with their benefit packages.

House Bill 929 will increase the multiplier for years of credible service from 2.0% to 2.5% under the Law Enforcement Officers’ Pension System (LEOPS). This will allow members of the pension system to retire with a maximum of 70% benefit at 28 years of credible service instead of the current maximum of 65% benefit at 32.5 years of credible service. Under the current benefit package of LEOPS, members who retire at 25 years only receive 50% of their salary, while members of the Maryland State Police in the State Police Retirement System receive 63.75% of their salary with the same years of service.

The adjustment proposed under House Bill 929 would allow eight of the agencies represented by SLEOLA to receive parity with the Maryland State Police who currently receive 2.55% for every year of service and achieve their maximum benefit of 71.4% at 28 years of service.

For these reasons, the State Law Enforcement Labor Alliance would like to thank the sponsor of this bill and ask the Committee for a favorable report for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Veronica Bruns", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Veronica Bruns
Treasurer

cc: Members, House Appropriations Committee