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Patrick Moran - President

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**HB 527 - Correctional Officers' Retirement System - Transfer of Membership - Modifications**  
**POSITION: FAVORABLE**

AFSCME Council 3 supports HB 527. This legislation requires the State Retirement and Pension System (SRPS) transfer the employees impacted by Chapters 218 and 2019 (2016), Chapters 688, 689, and 690 (2017), Chapters 579 and 580 (2018), and Chapter 147 (2022) into the Correctional Officers' Retirement System (CORS). They will have the ability to opt-out by June 1, 2024. This legislation also requires the SRPS to include credit for any unused sick leave accrued during membership in the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) in its calculation of unused sick leave for specified case management specialist and group life managers in DJS.

This legislation is necessary because it provides an opportunity for employees who wished to transfer into CORS because of the passage of the above legislation, but missed the transfer window for various reasons, to be placed in the CORS. The communication about the various retirement systems and options to transfer are often communicated at the agency level after legislation like this is passed. This communication is not always consistent, or sometimes it doesn't occur at all. As a result, employees can get misinformed or miss the window to transfer. The CORS provides a much better benefit often to employees, and when employees become aware of that they almost always want to transfer. We believe HB 527 takes the proper approach by transferring these employees into CORS and allowing them an opt-out window.

We urge the committee to provide a favorable report on HB 527.

Every AFSCME Maryland State and University contract guarantees a right to union representation.  
An employee has the right to a union representative if requested by the employee.  
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