



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



February 2, 2023

Senator Michael A. Jackson  
Chair, Pensions Subcommittee  
Senate Budget & Taxation Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 139 – State Police Retirement System and Law Enforcement Officers’ Pension  
System – Deferred Retirement Option Program – Alterations

Dear Chair Jackson:

The State Law Enforcement Labor Alliance (SLEOLA) is the exclusive representative for 1,757 active state law enforcement officers. We are writing in Support of Senate Bill 139. Our agencies have continued to have difficulties with recruiting and retention. Senate Bill 139 would assist with retention of officers and keep our valuable experience within law enforcement for several more years.

The Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) is a cost-effective option for retaining experienced officers. The Department of Legislative Services previously testified that the DROP was in fact a cost savings item. The Fiscal Note from an identical bill, Senate Bill 346 introduced in 2022, showed savings to the State of nearly a half million dollars.

A survey was conducted with members of the Maryland State Police, Natural Resources Police and the Capitol Police, which are the majority of SLEOLA members along with Commissioned Officers, not represented by SLEOLA. The survey resulted in an overwhelming 89.1% in support of the extension. Attached are additional charts to better understand the results of the survey.

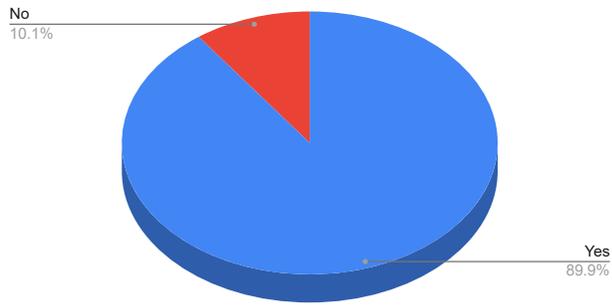
I would like to thank our sponsor Senator Jackson and would ask the committee for favorable support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

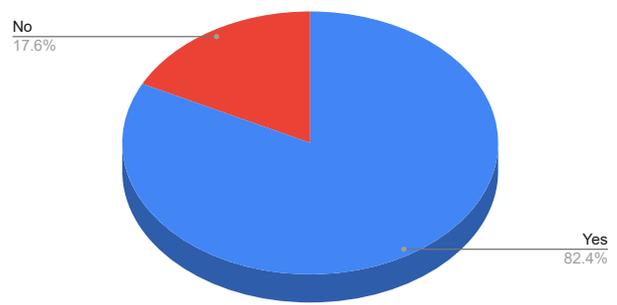
David Lewis  
Vice President

cc: Members, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

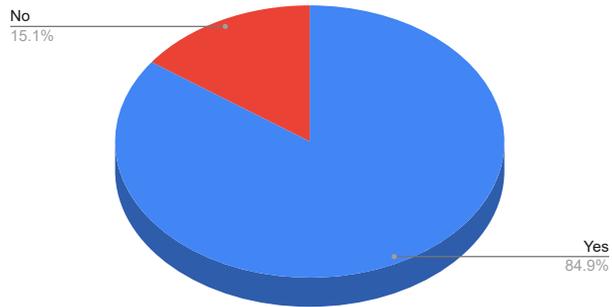
### SLEOLA



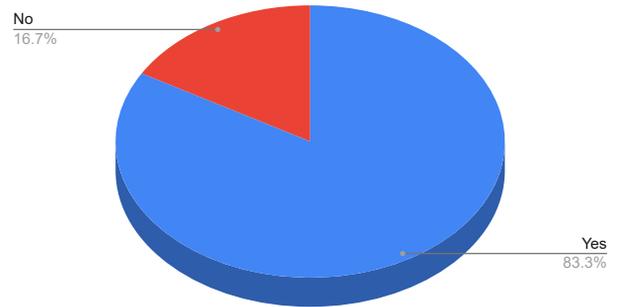
### Minorities



### Females



### Commissioned Officers



### Overall

