



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

March 2, 2023

TO: The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chairman Senate Budget & Tax Committee

**Re: Support with Amendment
SB 641 Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System – City of Bowie Police
Department – Transfers and Purchase of Service**

Mr. Chairman:

Senate Bill 641 would allow an individual who was hired by the Bowie Police Department between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2015 and meets certain requirements to request a transfer of creditable service from the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System. The legislation would also authorize an individual to purchase service credit to which they would not otherwise be entitled.

The Mayor and Bowie City Council has several concerns with the legislation. First, it is unclear at what rate the individuals would be allowed to purchase credits. As drafted, SB 641 would create a framework for an extended debate on that point between the City and individuals who qualify. Second, it is unclear how many individuals would qualify. Finally, without this information, it is also unclear what cost the City may incur if the legislation is passed.

Setting those concerns aside, if the committee does plan to advance SB 641, the City asks that the committee amend the legislation to insert on page 3, line 3 a new paragraph (e):

(e) The City of Bowie shall have no liability for damages of any sort in connection with any alleged failure to provide information regarding eligibility to transfer service credit to any individual who qualifies for a retroactive transfer pursuant to the terms of this enactment, whether the officer applies for such transfer or not.

The City of Bowie does not know and does not concede that it failed to advise anyone of any information of which it was required to inform them and, therefore, the City asks that the proposed amendment be incorporated if the committee intends to advance SB 641.

To date, there has neither been a request to discuss SB 641 with the nor a collective request from individuals who would qualify under this legislation. Indeed, the City was only recently made aware that there was a concern through the filing of this legislation. The City would like an

opportunity to understand key unknown facts as described above before a bill is passed implementing the changes in SB 641.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns.

For more information, please contact:
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