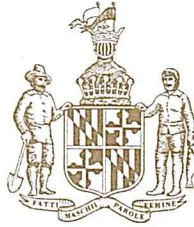


Jackson2023SB641Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Jackson

Position: FAV

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Budget and Taxation Committee
Subcommittees
Chair, Pensions
Public Safety, Transportation, and
Environment

District Office
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Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY – SENATE BILL 641
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' PENSION SYSTEM –
CITY OF BOWIE POLICE DEPARTMENT –
TRANSFERS AND PURCHASES OF SERVICE
BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
MARCH 2, 2023

Fellow Committee Members:

Senate Bill 641 is a piece of legislation that simply allows employees of the Bowie City Police Department who were hired between January 1st 2007 and December 31st 2015 to transfer and/or purchase their previous years of service credit from their time in another in-state police department. Upon their onboarding, these individuals were not given that opportunity. The legislation would create a six-month window to transfer and or purchase said credits.

This bill is just a simple effort to make these individuals whole and to get them the benefits for which they're rightly eligible. It is a technical fix that will make a huge difference for these officers and allow them and their families the added security and flexibility that their service deserves.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of SB 641.

2023 SB 0641 LEOPS Bowie City SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Ryan Shifflett

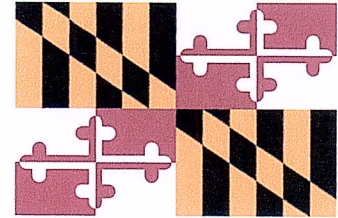
Position: FAV



Bowie Lodge #140

Fraternal Order of Police

PO Box 2, Bowie, MD 20719



Kwok Kam
President

Christopher Grimshaw
Secretary
Craig Mathew
Treasurer

March 1st, 2023

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chairman Rosapepe and esteemed Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:

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

My name is Ryan Shifflett. I am currently a police officer with the City of Bowie Police Department. I was hired in September 2007. Prior to working for the City of Bowie, I worked for the Baltimore Police Department. I started in Baltimore on May 17th, 2005. At this time, I started paying into the Baltimore Police and Fire Pension. When I left and came to the Bowie Police Department, I had no break in service and started the following week after leaving Baltimore. On the first day of employment, I had orientation with Ms. Renee Hance. When I inquired about transferring my time from Baltimore, I was advised that I had to buy that on the back end of my service with Bowie. 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 2007. 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 the 28 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,

Ryan Shifflett
State Trustee, Bowie FOP Lodge #140

SB 641 SWA City of Bowie 03 02 23.pdf

Uploaded by: Delora Sanchez Ifekauche

Position: FWA



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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