



HARFORD COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF'S UNION

PO Box 881, Bel Air, Maryland 21014

www.hcdsu.org

February 15, 2023

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Senate Budget and Tax Committee
Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 264 Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System – Benefits

Dear Senator Guzzone and members of the Budget and Tax Committee,

The Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union supports Senate Bill 264. We represent over 300 sworn deputies of the Harford County Sheriff's Office who serve each day to keep citizens safe in Harford County and Maryland.

Recruitment and retention continue to be a challenge for law enforcement agencies across Maryland jurisdictions. Although law enforcement candidates enter the profession for many reasons, the ability to attain a reliable pension benefit is certainly a primary consideration for candidates and current members of the LEOPS plan.

Senate Bill 264 changes the multiplier for years of credible service from 2.0% to 2.5%. LEOPS members who currently retire with 25 years of service qualify for 50% of their salary while members of the Maryland State Police system receive 63.5% of their salary. Senate Bill 264 will allow LEOPS members to garner a comparable 2.55% yearly multiplier and maximum benefit of 71.4% similar to the benefit in the State Police Retirement System.

The Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union is grateful for your continued efforts to examine and improve pension benefits for all of Maryland's law enforcement officers. We support Senate Bill 264 and request a FAVORABLE report.

Sincerely,
Gerald Eaton Jr
Gerald Eaton
Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union