



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB0618**

Testimony by Delegate Andrew Pruski

February 17, 2023 – Ways and Means Committee

**What the Bill Does:**

This bill is designed to update the definition of “public safety officer” in Article – Tax – Property, Section 9-260 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The update is to include **retired** firefighters, emergency medical technicians, correctional officers, and deputy sheriffs who reside in the county in which they were previously employed full time, allowing for those retired public safety officers to be able to continue to receive their property tax credit, if they are living in a county or municipality that offers the tax credit.

The original legislation passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 2017 was written as enabling legislation. This bill continues to allow a county or municipality to determine if they offer the tax credit along with eligibility.

**Why the Bill is Important:**

Public safety officers are our neighbors, friends, and important members of our community, not just while they are on the job, but when they are at home as well. Updating the definition of public safety officer to include those who are also retired for the purpose of this tax credit allows for those individuals to continue to stay in the community that they served. Our Public Safety personnel are integral to our communities and allowing retirees to live where they work will have a positive impact.

**Why the Committee Should Vote Favorably:**

HB618 would allow public safety officers who have retired to be able to keep their property tax credit, which could affect whether they can continue to afford to live in the same communities that they have served. **On behalf of Maryland’s retired firefighters, emergency medical technicians, correctional officers, and deputy sheriffs, I urge a favorable report on HB618.**