

DANA JONES
Legislative District 30A
Anne Arundel County

Ways and Means Committee

Secretary, Women's Caucus

Vice Chair, Anne Arundel
County Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 161
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3211 · 301-858-3211
800-492-7122 Ext. 3211
Dana.Jones@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Delegate Dana Jones
Before the Ways and Means Committee
In Support of HB 508
Property Tax Credit - Disabled Law Enforcement Officers and Rescue Workers -
Definition and Eligibility
February 14th, 2023

Chair Atterbary, Vice-Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee

For the record, I am Delegate Dana Jones.

I come before you today to testify on legislation passed unanimously last year by this Committee and on the House Floor. HB 508 would require a county or municipality to define who is a disabled law enforcement officer or rescue worker to expand an already existing tax credit to disabled federal officers.

Many counties in Maryland offer disabled state law enforcement officers and rescue workers a property tax credit. A majority of these individuals live on fixed incomes due to their injuries, and this tax credit provides financial relief to them and their families. Currently, this benefit is only available to state agents. HB 508 would expand the benefit to disabled federal agents who were living in Maryland during their declaration as disabled, or anytime within five years prior.

This bill does not specify what specific agents or officers must receive the credit by counties and municipalities, but examples of agents that could be included under this bill is federal job series: 0083 Federal Police Officers or detectives for federal government agencies (Focuses on Crime investigations, plain-clothed investigators) and 1811 Criminal Investigators for federal government agencies (focuses on crime prevention and security supervision of law enforcement work). Which includes Federal Officers from: the US Capitol Police, National Institute of Health, Department of Defense, Dept of Veterans Affairs, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Postal Service, U.S. Mint, Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), the Supreme Court Police, the Pentagon Police, Central Intelligence Agency to name just a few.

Two years ago, we watched in horror as insurrectionists stormed the U.S. Capital. The only thing that stopped these violent actors from reaching our elected officials and their staff was the heroic actions taken by our Capitol Police Officers and Metropolitan Police. Over 80 capitol police officers were injured during the riot, and over 150 officers in total from several local agencies became injured as a result of the attack. Unfortunately, under the current law, counties would not be allowed to extend this benefit to these brave men and women who fought to preserve our democracy that dark day.

I believe requiring counties and municipalities to define, by law, their definition of a law enforcement officer or rescue worker will enable current property tax credits to be extended to disabled federal agents. This shows how we value these Federal Officers from Maryland, their families, and their dedication to

our country. It shows our intent on retaining these brave men and women in Maryland as neighbors, community members and heroes.

Additionally, I am proud to say that this legislation has received a letter of support from the Maryland General Assembly Veterans Caucus, as a significant number of veterans become Federal Officers after their service in the Military.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on this enabling legislation.