

INFORMATIONAL
House Bill 9
State Retirement and Pension System – Forfeiture of Benefits

House Appropriations Committee
January 23, 2024

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Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association offers this informational testimony on House Bill 9. House Bill 9 makes pension benefits payable to members of the State Retirement and Pension System subject to forfeiture if the member, former member, or retiree is found guilty of, pleads guilty to, or enters a plea of nolo contendere to certain crimes. The bill provides protections for a spouse, former spouse, child, or other dependents of a convicted public employee. Specifically, a spouse, former spouse, child, or other dependent may, within one year after the conviction, file a claim in circuit court for a partial payment of the employee's retirement allowance.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

MSEA's primary focus this legislative session, as it has been since the pandemic, is to address the educator shortage across the state. Unfortunately, school systems across the country and Maryland have been grappling with critical shortages of educators, not only classroom teachers, but also education support professionals such as bus drivers, custodians, food and nutrition workers, and paraeducators. Our labor union is diligently working with partners across the state to find solutions to grow the pipeline of educators to ensure our public schools are fully staffed with high-quality and diverse public school employees.



MSEA does not view this legislation, in any way, as having a detrimental impact on the recruitment and retention of highly qualified individuals into the education profession. MSEA values continued partnership with policymakers and organizations to build the education workforce pipeline with passionate, dedicated, hard-working, and intelligent individuals to ensure a high-quality public education is delivered for every child in Maryland.