

# **Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 320 LEOPS age**

Uploaded by: Anne Gawthrop

Position: FAV



STATE RETIREMENT AGENCY  
120 East Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202-6700

MARYLAND  
STATE RETIREMENT  
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**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 320  
State Police Retirement System and Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System – Deferred  
Retirement Option Program – Technical Correction  
Senate Budget and Tax Committee**

**January 25, 2024  
9:30 A.M.**

**Anne Gawthrop  
Director of Legislative Affairs  
State Retirement Agency**

The Board of Trustees for the State Retirement and Pension System wishes to express its support for Senate Bill 320, State Police Retirement System and Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System – Deferred Retirement Option Program – Technical Correction. Senate Bill 320 is legislation sponsored by the Joint Committee on Pensions at the request of the Board.

Chapter 400 of the Acts of 2023 extends the timeframe for participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Program (“DROP”) for members of the State Police Retirement System (“SPRS”) and Law Enforcement Officers Pension System (“LEOPS”) from five years to seven years. Section 2 of Chapter 400 creates a 6-month election period, from July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, for current SPRS and LEOPS DROP members to extend their DROP participation for two extra years, but erroneously states that LEOPS members currently participating in the DROP who wish to extend their participation in the DROP to seven years, must terminate DROP by age 60, similar to the mandatory retirement age for members of the SPRS. Provisions of the State Personnel and Pensions Article provide that only members of the SPRS are subject to a mandatory retirement age of 60. Senate Bill 320 corrects this inadvertent reference to mandatory retirement for the LEOPS members currently participating in the DROP.

We appreciate being given this opportunity to express our support to the Budget and Tax Committee for this legislation and would request a favorable report on Senate Bill 320.

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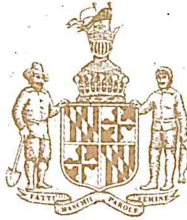
Martin Noven, *Secretary to the Board*

# **SB320JacksonTestimony2024.pdf**

Uploaded by: Michael Jackson

Position: FAV

**MICHAEL A. JACKSON**  
*Legislative District 27*  
Calvert, Charles and  
Prince George's Counties



*Annapolis Office*  
Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 West  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3700 • 301-858-3700  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3700  
Michael.Jackson@senate.state.md.us

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**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

*District Office*  
250 Merrimac Court  
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

***TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 320***

***STATE POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND LAW  
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' PENSION SYSTEM – DEFERRED  
RETIREMENT OPTION PROGRAM – TECHNICAL CORECTION***

***BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE***

***JANUARY 25, 2024***

Fellow Committee Members:

Senate Bill 320 is a very simple piece of legislation which would clarify that only members of the State Police Retirement System (not members of LEOPS – the Law Enforcement Officers Pension System) must terminate their participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) before reaching age 60.

This is a very simple technical clarification that will provide for the better intended administration of the State Retirement and Pension System.

**For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 320.**