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Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee

Executive Nominations Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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The Budget and Taxation Committee

**SB 1114 – State Retirement and Pension System – Transfer of Service
Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza**

Thank you Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the distinguished Senate Budget and Taxation Committee for this opportunity to present Senate Bill 1114 – State Retirement and Pension System – Transfers of Service. This bill would simply allow for the transfer of service of Maryland State Police Corporal Jason Dykes with the Salisbury Police Department to the State Retirement and Pension System.

Over the past two years, I have been working with the State Retirement and Pension System, the Comptroller's Office, and local law enforcement to assist my constituent, Corporal Jason Dykes. Based on those conversations, and the work that Corporal Dykes has done over the years, I am now seeking to resolve the matter through the legislation before you.

This narrowly-focused bill would allow a former member of the Local Fire and Police Retirement System (LFPRS) who is an active member of the State Police Retirement System (SPRS) and incurred a break in service to transfer his service from the LFPRS to the SPRS. There is no fiscal impact.

Corporal Jason Dykes served for nearly 10 years with the Salisbury Police Department and during that time contributed to the LFPRS, which no longer exists. He then served one year with the Wicomico County Sheriff's Office, which is not under a State Retirement System, before serving the past 19 years with the Maryland State Police where he continues to contribute to the SPRS.

Due to his time with the Wicomico County Sheriff's Office, which the State Retirement and Pension System considers a break in service, Corporal Dykes is ineligible to buy back his almost decade of service with the Salisbury Police Department. Since 2015, Corporal Dykes has been trying through non-legislative means to rectify the situation. He has worked with staff from the State Retirement and Pension System, received representation from the Maryland Troopers Association, requested a hearing, and appealed that hearing's decision. He was unable to personally present his appeal as he was attending the funeral of Corporal Glenn Hilliard who was

killed in the line of duty. However, his representative from the Maryland Troopers Association informed him that Comptroller Franchot, who was a member of the State Retirement and Pension System at the time, indicated he was sympathetic to the situation and advised pursuing legislation to address the matter.

Corporal Dykes has served Maryland honorably as a law enforcement professional for 30 years. In 2023 he was awarded the Superintendent's Citation and received the 2022 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. He was previously nominated for Trooper of the Year in 2014 and in 2006, as well as being nominated for the 2006 Medal of Honor through the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association.

He has served in numerous roles from a road patrol officer, to an officer on the fugitive warrant unit, a mounted patrol officer, a detective, an undercover narcotics investigator and a current member of the Maryland State Police Digital Forensic Lab. Corporal Dykes often goes above and beyond the call of duty to help our community. He is an exemplary officer and often puts his own needs on hold to support others.

Corporal Jason Dykes has exhausted all non-legislative actions to resolve this situation. Under current law, an officer serving out of state with a break in service would be eligible for a transfer of service, and yet because Corporal Dykes served in Maryland he does not qualify. SB 1114 would simply allow Corporal Dykes to be treated fairly and receive the time he has earned through his dedicated service to the State of Maryland.

I thank you for your kind attention and consideration, and I respectfully request a favorable and very swift report on SB 1114.