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Education and Economic Development
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The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB 886

State Retirement and Pension System – Deferred Vested Former Members – Return to Service

Testimony of Delegate Cathi Forbes

Appropriations

March 11, 2025

What this bill does

This bill will provide consistency across several systems and will allow that deferred vested members of the Correctional Officers' Retirement System (CORS), the State Police Retirement System (SPRS) and the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System (LEOPS) who were vested in these plans prior to July 1, 2011, shall be subject to the same requirements that were in effect in the former plan on June 30, 2011, regardless of the length of their break in service.

Why this is necessary

Currently deferred vested members of CORS, SPRS, and LEOPS who were vested in these plans prior to July 1, 2011, do not have a provision that allows them to resume membership after a break of service of more than four years. These members that return to service after more than four years, begin a new account with post-July 1, 2011 vesting and service requirements.

Provisions of the Employees' Pension System (EPS) and the Teacher's Pension System (TPS) provide deferred vested members the ability to resume membership regardless of the length of time of the break of service that has occurred.

Why you should vote for this bill

Staff for the Agency can find no indication to suggest that public safety plans were deliberately excluded from the revisions that were enacted to preserve the EPS or TPS member's pre-July 1, 2011 membership status. For consistency across the several systems, this legislation should be passed.

I ask for a favorable report. Thank you.