



**State Law Enforcement  
Officers Labor Alliance**  
542 Ritchie Highway  
Severna Park, Maryland 21146



February 27, 2025

The Honorable Guy Guzzone.  
Budget and Taxation  
3 West Miller State Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: SB 812 - Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System and State Police  
Retirement System - Line-of-Duty Catastrophic Injury Disability**

Dear Chair Guzzone:

The State Law Enforcement Labor Alliance (SLEOLA) is the exclusive representative for 1,700 active state law enforcement officers, including the following agencies:

- Maryland State Police
- Maryland Natural Resources Police
- Field Enforcement Bureau
- Maryland State Fire Marshall
- Maryland Capitol Police
- Department of Health Police
- Maryland Vehicle Administration Police
- Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Intelligence and Investigative Division
- Warrant Apprehension Unit of the Division of Parole and Probation in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

SLEOLA is writing in support of Senate Bill 812. Everyday law enforcement officers across Maryland put their lives on the line to serve and protect their communities. Unfortunately, the nature of this work can lead to serious injuries that permanently incapacitate officers. Despite the dangers, officers are expected to return to their duties or transition to retirement without adequate support if they are injured in the line of duty.

Currently, the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System and the State Police Retirement System provide retirement benefits to those who are incapacitated due to work-related injuries. However, these benefits often do not fully reflect the gravity of the injuries or the extent of the disability sustained. Senate Bill 812 proposes a vital improvement by ensuring that law enforcement officers who suffer from catastrophic injuries that prevent them from engaging in any substantial gainful activity will be compensated appropriately.

Law enforcement officers who sacrifice their health and safety in service to the state deserve to have their sacrifices acknowledged and supported, especially when they are unable to return to their duties. SB 812 ensures that law enforcement members who are determined to be disabled, as defined under the Internal Revenue Code §72(M)(7) will receive a disability pension equal to one hundred percent of their final average compensation. This will ensure consistency across pension systems and make it easier to manage cases of permanent disability. SB 812 also ensures that Maryland law enforcement officers who have dedicated their lives to public safety are not left without critical financial resources if they are permanently disabled due to their service to their communities.

This bill is essential in the recruitment and retention of law enforcement officers, as it shows that their willingness to serve and protect the State of Maryland is valued and that they will receive the support they need and deserve after enduring a debilitating injury in the line of duty. Our officers are the backbone of public safety in Maryland; it is only fair that we provide them with the necessary resources to rebuild their lives when they can no longer serve.

For these reasons, the State Law Enforcement Labor Alliance would like to thank the sponsor of this bill and ask the Committee for a favorable report for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Veronica Bruns  
Treasurer

cc: Members, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee