



Maryland Transportation Authority Police Lodge #34



President  
James Kruszynski III



Lodge Attorney  
Herbert Weiner

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
Senator Guy Guzzone Chair  
3 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

January 28, 2025

**RE: Senate Bill 329 -Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System - Benefits (SUPPORT)**

Dear Senator Guzzone and Distinguished Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

Maryland Transportation Authority Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #34 strongly **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 329. Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 34 represents the men and women of the Maryland Transportation Authority Police, and we are the largest agency in the Law Enforcement Officers Pension System (LEOPS).

Senate Bill 329 increases the multiplier for years of credible service from 2.0% to 2.5%. This will allow members of the LEOPS system to retire with a 70% maximum benefit at 28 years of service as opposed to the current maximum of 65% at 32.5 years of service. Under the current benefit package, LEOPS members who retire at 25 years only receive 50% of their salary, while members of the State Police Retirement System receive 63.75%. This crucial adjustment to 2.5% per year will provide LEOPS members a fair and comparable benefit to the 2.55% per year that the State Police Retirement System currently offers its members.

Police agencies across Maryland are seeing record-high vacancy rates coupled with skyrocketing early retirement numbers. The MDTA Police are currently experiencing over a 15% vacancy rate.

Maryland Police agencies are desperately trying to recruit and retain qualified applicants to counter record-high vacancy rates by offering more competitive wages, pensions, and benefits packages. Unfortunately, LEOPS does not currently offer a competitive pension benefit compared to the State Police Retirement System. SB 329 will allow LEOPS Police Agencies the ability to offer competitive pensions and benefits packages, which will enhance our ability to recruit and retain the very best law enforcement officers.

Therefore, on behalf of the almost 600 members of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 34, I thank you for your support and your FAVORABLE report on Senate Bill 329.

Sincerely,

Jim Kruszynski  
President  
Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 34