



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

MARYLAND
STATE RETIREMENT
and PENSION SYSTEM

410-625-5555 • 1-800-492-5909
TTY Users: call via Maryland Relay
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Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 768
Correctional Officers' Retirement System - Membership – Clarifications
Senate Budget and Tax Committee
February 27, 2025
9:00 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 768, Correctional Officers' Retirement System - Membership - Clarifications. Senate Bill 768 is legislation sponsored by the Joint Committee on Pensions at the request of the Board.

Senate Bill 768 will move members who are employed by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) serving as supervisors or managers for security attendant positions at State forensic facilities from the Employees' Pension System (EPS) to the Correctional Officers' Retirement System (CORS). Chapters 135 and 136 of 2024 moved members from the EPS to the CORS who were employed by the MDH in security attendant positions at State forensic facilities. Individuals hired into these positions on or after July 1, 2024, at the facilities included in the 2024 legislation, will be enrolled in the CORS as a condition of employment. As Chapters 135 and 136 were drafted, many supervisor and manager positions for these security attendants were inadvertently omitted from the legislation. As a result, under current law, an individual serving in a security attendant position who is promoted into a supervisor or manager position that was omitted from the legislation, will be moved back to the EPS at the time of promotion. To avoid this disruption to these members' benefits, Senate Bill 768 clarifies that on or after July 1, 2025, the supervisors and managers of security attendants at State forensic facilities will also be members of the CORS as a condition of employment.

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 768.

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