



HARFORD COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF'S UNION

PO Box 881, Bel Air, Maryland 21014

www.hcdsu.org

January 22, 2025

The Honorable Guy Guzzone,
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 329 – Law Enforcement Officer's Pension System – Benefits -SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Guzzone and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

The Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union supports Senate Bill 329. We represent over 300 sworn deputies of the Harford County Sheriff's Office who serve each day to keep citizens safe in Harford County and Maryland.

Recruitment and retention continue to be a challenge for law enforcement agencies across Maryland jurisdictions. Although law enforcement candidates enter the profession for many reasons, the ability to attain a reliable pension benefit is certainly a primary consideration for candidates and current members of the LEOPS plan.

Senate Bill 329 changes the multiplier for years of credible service from 2.0% to 2.5%. LEOPS members who currently retire with 25 years of service qualify for 50% of their salary while members of the Maryland State Police system receive 63.5% of their salary. Senate Bill 329 will allow LEOPS members to garner a comparable 2.55% yearly multiplier and maximum benefit of 71.4% similar to the benefit in the State Police Retirement System.

The Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union is grateful for your continued efforts to examine and improve pension benefits for all of Maryland's law enforcement officers, We support Senate Bill 329 and request a FAVORABLE report.

Sincerely,
Gerald Eaton Jr
Gerald Eaton
Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union