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Patrick Moran – President

**SB812 – Law Enforcement Officers’ Pension System and State Police Retirement System –
Line-of-Duty Catastrophic Injury Disability
Budget and Taxation Committee
February 27, 2025**

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

AFSCME Council 3 supports Senate Bill 812 with amendments. Senate Bill 812 would provide 100% of a members Average Final Compensation instead of the typical 66.67% if a member is completely disabled from doing any work whatsoever in the future due to their work in the line of duty.

AFSCME Council 3 represents approximately 45,000 public service workers at the state, county, and municipal level across Maryland. From Western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, AFSCME members are on the front lines everyday making the delivery of critical public services to Marylanders possible. Without AFSCME members, our communities could not function.

AFSCME Council 3 supports this legislation with amendments. Specifically, AFSCME Council 3 requests that the bill be amended to include members in the Correctional Officers Retirement System and the Employee Retirement System. Employees participating in the Correctional Officers Retirement System face hazardous conditions in their work sites including officers at correctional institutions, security attendants at forensic facilities, and parole and probation agents, to name a few examples. Additionally, in the Employee Retirement System, participating employees are not immune from hazardous working conditions that may cause catastrophic injuries resulting in lifelong disabilities. For example, state highway workers have one of the most dangerous jobs in the country. In 2022, the National Safety Council reported that 891 people were killed and 37,701 people were injured in work zone crashes.¹ AFSCME Council 3 believes these public servants should be afforded the same benefits that would be afforded to members of the Law Enforcement Officers’ Pension System and the State Police Retirement System under the bill.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report with amendments.

¹ National Safety Council, *Motor Vehicle Safety Issues: Work Zones*, <https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/motor-vehicle/motor-vehicle-safety-issues/work-zones/> (last accessed February 25, 2025).