



Fraternal Order of Police
Montgomery County Lodge 35

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Testimony of Lee Holland, President of the Montgomery County Fraternal Order of
Police, Lodge 35

Before the Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

In Support of Senate Bill 30

January 13, 2025

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Honorable Members of the Senate
Budget and Taxation Committee,

As President of Montgomery County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 35, serving as the certified bargaining representative for the rank-and-file officers of the Montgomery County Police Department, and on behalf of our 1500 active and retired Montgomery County law enforcement officers, I write to express our strong support for Senate Bill 30, which increases the maximum value of the income tax subtraction modification for public safety employee retirement income from \$15,000 to \$20,000. We appreciate the opportunity to present our position on this significant legislation.

Public safety employees dedicate their careers to serving and protecting the residents of Maryland, often at considerable personal cost. Their commitment to ensuring community safety and well-being involves physical risk, emotional strain, and long-term impacts that persist into retirement. Senate Bill 30 acknowledges these contributions and provides meaningful financial relief to those who have served with distinction.

Retired public safety employees frequently face financial challenges as they live on fixed incomes that must accommodate rising costs of living, including medical expenses and housing. This bill offers practical support by increasing the subtraction modification, helping retirees sustain a stable standard of living and alleviating financial pressures.

Enhancing retirement benefits through targeted tax relief also plays an essential role in promoting recruitment and retention within Maryland's public safety workforce. Offering

meaningful support to retirees demonstrates the state's commitment to its employees, strengthening Maryland's ability to attract and retain highly qualified individuals in these critical roles.

The projected reductions in state and local revenues outlined in the fiscal note are modest in comparison to the significant benefits this legislation provides to public safety retirees and their communities. Retirees remain active contributors to the local economy, and the financial stability afforded by this bill ensures continued engagement and spending within the state.

Senate Bill 30 reflects Maryland's values and commitment to those who dedicate their lives to public service. We respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report and advance this important legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We are available to address any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Holland
President
Montgomery County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 35