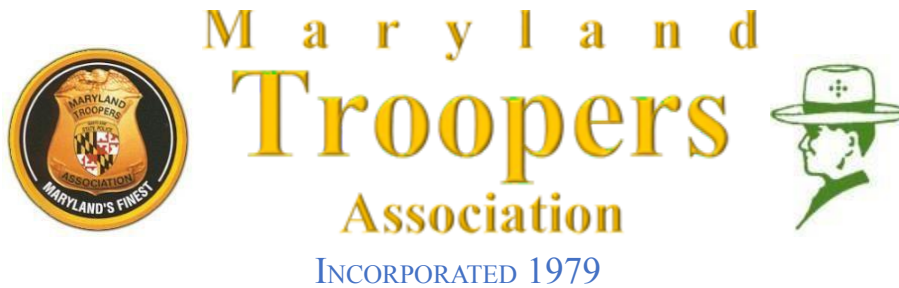


# **SB0812\_FAV\_MDTroopersAssociation.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Brian Blubaugh

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 812**

**Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System and State Police Retirement System – Line-of-Duty  
Catastrophic Injury Disability**

TO: Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: The Maryland Trooper's Association

DATE: February 27th, 2025

The Maryland Troopers Association (MTA) represents approximately 2,629 active and retired law enforcement officers throughout Maryland, of which 1,120 are active sworn Troopers involved in traffic and criminal enforcement. The MTA supports Senate Bill 812, which would require disability pay for law enforcement who were disabled in the line of duty.

Law enforcement officers devote their lives to serving the people of Maryland. It is an immense risk that most would not, and could not, take on. It is only fair and appropriate for officers to receive equal disability compensation should they be deemed disabled while protecting Marylanders. This bill would ensure that law enforcement officers would be appropriately compensated, and it is a warranted and justified request.

We strongly support Senate Bill 812 and urge a favorable report.

Brian Blubaugh  
President  
Maryland Troopers Association

**Member of National Troopers Coalition**

1300 REISTERSTOWN ROAD, PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND 21208 (410) 653-3885 1-800-TROOPER

E-mail: [info@mdtroopers.org](mailto:info@mdtroopers.org)

## **SB0812 Law enforcement.pdf**

Uploaded by: Cody Drinkwater

Position: FAV



## People on the Go of Maryland

SB0812 -Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System and State Police Retirement System - Line-of-Duty Catastrophic Injury Disability  
*Requiring a certain line-of-duty disability allowance to be paid to a member of the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System or the State Police Retirement System who is found to be disabled and unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity.*

Position: Support

Sponsored by Delegate Bailey

Date of Hearing: February 27th at 9:00am

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation Committee

Written by Cody Drinkwater, Policy Coordinator,

Honorable Chairperson, and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

People On the Go of Maryland (POG) is a statewide self-advocacy organization, run for and by those with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD), and our mission is to promote self-advocacy throughout the State.

POG respectfully offers this written testimony in support of SB0812. While POG and first responders and officers have a lot to work on and growth to achieve, we know that anyone can become disabled at any time, especially in the line of duty. People on the Go want to make it clear that first responders and officers will always have a place within POG.

Respectfully written by Cody Drinkwater. Should you have any questions, please contact us.

Thank you,

Cody Drinkwater, Policy Coordinator

M: 443-923-9593

E: [cody@pogmd.org](mailto:cody@pogmd.org)

Mat Rice, Executive Director

M: 410-925-5706

E: [mat@pogmd.org](mailto:mat@pogmd.org)

# **SenatorBailey\_FAV\_SB812.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jack Bailey

Position: FAV

JACK BAILEY  
Legislative District 29  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Budget & Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 401  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3673 • 301-858-3673  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3673  
Jack.Bailey@senate.state.md.us

District Office  
Dorsey Professional Park  
23680 Three Notch Road, Unit 101  
Hollywood, Maryland 20636  
240-309-4238

February 27, 2025

**Senate Bill 812 - Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System and State Police Retirement System - Line-of-Duty  
Catastrophic Injury Disability**

Dear Chair Hettleman and Members of the Subcommittee,

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 812. This bill will provide an enhanced line-of-duty disability allowance to be paid to a member of the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System (LEOPS) or the State Police Retirement System (SPRS) who is found to be disabled and unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity.

Under current law, a member of one of these pension systems who is disabled in the line of duty can receive an allowance equal to two-thirds of their compensation at the time of the injury. Last session's Joint Chairmen's Report requested that the State Retirement Agency report on how Maryland could award a special and accidental disability benefit for catastrophic injuries that result in a member of these two pension systems being unable to work in any capacity equal to 100% of the member's annual compensation at the time their injury occurred. Senate Bill 812 has been drafted to accomplish this objective and provide this increased benefit.

This bill uses the Federal definition of "disabled" as set forth in §72(m)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code. This definition states, in part, "an individual shall be considered to be disabled if he is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or to be of long-continued and indefinite duration."

The current 66 2/3 benefit is intended to account for the fact that about one-third of the individual's paycheck would be taxed otherwise. However, this does not account for other paycheck deductions that many of us are familiar with, particularly the cost of health insurance. Providing this enhanced benefit to our police who have been catastrophically injured in the line of duty will ensure that their income can continue to cover their cost of living, and that their disability does not result in an effective reduction in the amount of income they receive.

Senate Bill 812 will support those officers who have become catastrophically injured in the line of duty while protecting the residents of this State. I know that this subcommittee understands the importance of ensuring that our State takes care of the brave men and women who work to keep Maryland safe. I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 812. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

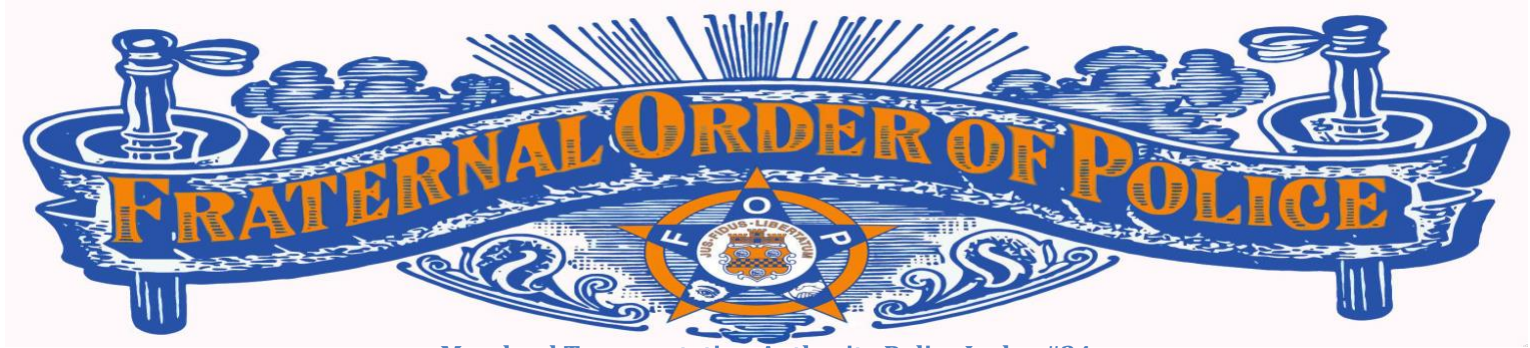
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey", written over a horizontal line.

Senator Jack Bailey

# **SB812 LEOPS Disability Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jim Kruszynski

Position: FAV



Maryland Transportation Authority Police Lodge #34



President  
Jim Kruszynski III



Lodge Attorney  
Herbert Weiner

The Honorable Guy Guzzone.  
Budget and Taxation  
3 West Miller State Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 25, 2025

**RE: Senate Bill 812 - Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System and State Police Retirement System - Line-of-Duty Catastrophic Injury Disability (SUPPORT)**

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

On behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 34, representing almost 600 Maryland Transportation Authority Police Officers—active and retired—I write to strongly support Senate Bill 812. This bill will improve the LEOPS Accidental Disability Pension benefit for our members who suffer catastrophic injuries while performing their duties as Law Enforcement Professionals.

Day in and day out, our brave men and women in Law Enforcement put their lives on the line to protect our communities, uphold the law, and ensure our safety. Their work is not just a job—it's a calling that demands courage, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to justice. Yet, with this duty comes the ever-present risk of injury; sometimes, that injury is catastrophically life-changing. This risk is a reality we face each time we don our uniforms. From dangerous traffic stops to confronting armed suspects, the physical and emotional toll of our service is immense, and too often, we bear scars—seen and unseen—that last a lifetime. This bill will provide a crucial pension benefit when our officers suffer catastrophic injuries that prevent them from obtaining meaningful employment for the rest of their lives.

FOP Lodge 34 stands with our retirees, and this bill honors their dedication and lifetime of service to Maryland's citizens. Thank you for supporting our disabled retirees. We look forward to seeing this bill become law.

Sincerely,

Jim Kruszynski  
President  
FOP Lodge 34

# **SB 812 02-27-2025 - SLEOLA - FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Veronica Bruns

Position: FAV



**State Law Enforcement  
Officers Labor Alliance**  
542 Ritchie Highway  
Severna Park, Maryland 21146



February 27, 2025

The Honorable Guy Guzzone.  
Budget and Taxation  
3 West Miller State Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: SB 812 - Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System and State Police  
Retirement System - Line-of-Duty Catastrophic Injury Disability**

Dear Chair Guzzone:

The State Law Enforcement Labor Alliance (SLEOLA) is the exclusive representative for 1,700 active state law enforcement officers, including the following agencies:

- Maryland State Police
- Maryland Natural Resources Police
- Field Enforcement Bureau
- Maryland State Fire Marshall
- Maryland Capitol Police
- Department of Health Police
- Maryland Vehicle Administration Police
- Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Intelligence and Investigative Division
- Warrant Apprehension Unit of the Division of Parole and Probation in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

SLEOLA is writing in support of Senate Bill 812. Everyday law enforcement officers across Maryland put their lives on the line to serve and protect their communities. Unfortunately, the nature of this work can lead to serious injuries that permanently incapacitate officers. Despite the dangers, officers are expected to return to their duties or transition to retirement without adequate support if they are injured in the line of duty.

Currently, the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System and the State Police Retirement System provide retirement benefits to those who are incapacitated due to work-related injuries. However, these benefits often do not fully reflect the gravity of the injuries or the extent of the disability sustained. Senate Bill 812 proposes a vital improvement by ensuring that law enforcement officers who suffer from catastrophic injuries that prevent them from engaging in any substantial gainful activity will be compensated appropriately.

Law enforcement officers who sacrifice their health and safety in service to the state deserve to have their sacrifices acknowledged and supported, especially when they are unable to return to their duties. SB 812 ensures that law enforcement members who are determined to be disabled, as defined under the Internal Revenue Code §72(M)(7) will receive a disability pension equal to one hundred percent of their final average compensation. This will ensure consistency across pension systems and make it easier to manage cases of permanent disability. SB 812 also ensures that Maryland law enforcement officers who have dedicated their lives to public safety are not left without critical financial resources if they are permanently disabled due to their service to their communities.

This bill is essential in the recruitment and retention of law enforcement officers, as it shows that their willingness to serve and protect the State of Maryland is valued and that they will receive the support they need and deserve after enduring a debilitating injury in the line of duty. Our officers are the backbone of public safety in Maryland; it is only fair that we provide them with the necessary resources to rebuild their lives when they can no longer serve.

For these reasons, the State Law Enforcement Labor Alliance would like to thank the sponsor of this bill and ask the Committee for a favorable report for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Veronica Bruns  
Treasurer

cc: Members, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

# **AFSCME Council 3 SB812 Testimony\_FWA.pdf**

Uploaded by: Christian Gobel

Position: FWA



1410 Bush Street (Suite A)  
Baltimore, MD 21230  
Phone: 410-547-1515  
Email: [info@afscmemd.org](mailto:info@afscmemd.org)

Patrick Moran – President

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**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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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).