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Appropriations Committee

Subcommittees

Capital Budget

Education and Economic Development

Chair, Oversight Committee on Pensions



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The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB 1139

State Retirement and Pension System – Eligible Governmental Units

Testimony of Delegate Cathi Forbes

Appropriations

March 18, 2026

What this bill does

This bill clarifies what forms are necessary, and deadlines for those forms to be submitted from counties and municipalities from each individual employed by an eligible participating governmental unit (PGU) indicating whether they intend to participate in the state system or opt out of joining the Employees' Pension System (EPS), Correctional Officers' Retirement System (CORS), or the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System (LEOPS).

Why this bill is necessary

When counties and municipalities seek to move their employees to one of the state retirement systems the statutes are not clear. For instance, when moving into LEOPS, whether they are required to move all law enforcement officers from their jurisdiction, or whether they may move just some divisions. This legislation clarifies that it must be all. Additionally, this legislation clarifies that they need a properly completed election form from each employee eligible to transfer before the effective date, and sets a new effective date if the forms are not received.

Why you should vote for this bill

Providing clarification on these complex issues will benefit all involved.

I ask for a favorable report. Thank you.