

HB678 CORS Membership Clarifications - Support.pdf

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**Testimony in Support of House Bill 678
Correctional Officers' Retirement System - Membership - Clarifications**

**House Appropriations Committee
March 18, 2026
1:00 P.M.**

**Anne Gawthrop
Director of Legislative Affairs
State Retirement Agency**

The Board of Trustees for the State Retirement and Pension System wishes to express its support for House Bill 678, Correctional Officers' Retirement System - Membership - Clarifications. House Bill 377 is legislation sponsored by the Joint Committee on Pensions at the request of the Board.

Chapters 135 and 136 of 2024 and Chapters 776 and 777 of 2025 moved members from the Employees' Pension System (EPS) to the Correctional Officers' Retirement System (CORS) who were employed by the Maryland Department of Health in security attendant positions at State forensic facilities. Staff for the State Retirement Agency (Agency) have been made aware that the positions of Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) Specialist I - CI and CAMH Specialist II - CI were inadvertently omitted from the 2024 and 2025 legislation. We have confirmed that these positions would qualify for membership in the CORS. House Bill 678 amends the CORS membership provisions in the State Personnel and Pensions Article to include CAMH Specialist I - CI and CAMH Specialist II - CI. At this time, the Agency is aware of 14 individuals who would be impacted by this legislation.

We appreciate being given this opportunity to express our support to the Appropriations Committee for this legislation and would request a favorable report on House Bill 678.

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Delegate Forbes Testimony HB678.pdf

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Testimony in Support of HB 678

Correctional Officers' Retirement System – Membership – Clarifications

Testimony of Delegate Cathi Forbes

Appropriations

March 18, 2026

What this bill does

This bill would amend the Correctional Officers' Retirement System (CORS) provisions to include child and adolescent mental health (CAMH) specialists I and II that were inadvertently left out of previous legislation passed in 2024 and 2025.

Why this bill is necessary

In 2024, [HB1005/CH135](#) moved members from the Employees' Pension System (EPS) to CORS who were employed by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) in security attendant positions at State forensic facilities. [HB1029/CH777](#) of 2025 clarified that individuals employed as supervisors and managers for security attendants employed by MDH at state forensic facilities would also be moved from EPS to CORS.

The CAMH specialist I and II positions should have been transferred at that time, but were inadvertently left out of the legislation. The state retirement agency indicates this would affect approximately 14 individuals.

Why you should vote for this bill

Passage of this legislation will clarify that the positions of child and adolescent mental health specialist I and II will be members of CORS as a condition of employment.

I ask for a favorable report. Thank you.