



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



March 5, 2026

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

**Re: SB 647 – 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 more than 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 647. 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 647 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 647 ensures that law enforcement members who are determined to be disabled 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 647 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.

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,

Brian Gill
President

cc: Members, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee