

COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY
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February 6, 2026

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Senator
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 614 - Correctional Officers' Retirement System - Dorchester County

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, I respectfully offer its support for Senate Bill 614 entitled, "Correctional Officers' Retirement System - Dorchester County," for purposes of requiring membership in the Correctional Officers' Retirement System for certain local detention center officers of Dorchester County in the event Dorchester County becomes a participating governmental unit in the Correctional Officers' Retirement System; providing that certain local detention center officers who join the Correctional Officers' Retirement System and receive certain service credit shall no longer be members of the Employees' Pension System; and generally relating to Dorchester County's participation in the Correctional Officers' Retirement System.

Dorchester County supports SB 614 because participation in the Correctional Officers' Retirement System would strengthen recruitment and retention by making the County more competitive with surrounding jurisdictions that already offer this benefit. Correctional Officers perform uniquely demanding, high-risk public safety work, and access to CORS would provide equitable retirement benefits comparable to their peers in other counties and State facilities. This recognition of service supports employee morale, promotes workforce stability, and reduces costly turnover, recruitment, and training disruptions. Improved retention contributes to operational continuity within the Department of Corrections, enhances public safety, and reinforces community confidence in a well-staffed and experienced corrections system. While participation requires an investment, it also supports long-term fiscal responsibility through predictable retirement planning and reduced costs associated with vacancies, overtime, and repeated onboarding. Therefore, we respectfully ask that you look favorably upon this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter of support. If you have any questions, please contact the Council's Office at (410) 228-1700

Sincerely,

George L. Pfeffer, Jr.
President

cc: The Honorable Johnny Mautz, Senator
The Honorable Christopher T. Adams, Delegate
The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes, Delegate
The Honorable Tom Hutchinson, Delegate