



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**SB 930: State Police Retirement System – Special Disability Retirement**

**Official Sponsor Testimony of Senator Kevin M. Harris**

Chair Guzzone, Vice-chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget and Taxation committee,

Senate Bill 930 addresses a narrow but serious inequity affecting certain retirees of the Maryland State Police.

Under current law, a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) participant may only qualify for special disability retirement if the disabling injury occurs *after* entering the DROP. That rule unintentionally excludes officers who were injured while on duty *before* entering the DROP, whose injuries resulted in physical or mental incapacitation, and compelled retirement.

SB 930 provides a limited, responsible remedy. It allows a clearly defined group of Maryland State Police retirees to apply for special disability retirement. The bill applies only to individuals who enrolled in the DROP on or after July 1, 2020, who had prior work-related injuries, and who ceased participation in the DROP before July 1, 2026. It further requires medical certification by the Retirement System's medical board, ensuring that only those who are truly and permanently incapacitated qualify.

Importantly, this legislation is temporary and tightly bound. SB 930 takes effect on July 1, 2026 and sunsets on December 31, 2026, and requires eligible individuals to apply within that six-month period. This is not an expansion of benefits for future employees, nor is it an open-ended fiscal commitment. It is a corrective measure designed to resolve a specific set of cases fairly and finally.

At its core, SB 930 is about honoring our commitment to the dedicated men and women of the Maryland State Police, who sustained injuries while protecting our state. We should not allow our retirement system to deny them appropriate disability protections because of a procedural technicality.

I respectfully ask the committee for a favorable report on SB 930 and thank you for your consideration.