



A Union of Professionals
AFT-Maryland

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**Written Testimony Submitted to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
SB 607 - Income Tax – Subtraction Modification for Public Safety
Retirement Income – Amount
February 18, 2026**

FAVORABLE

Chair Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee: AFT Maryland asks for a favorable report on SB 607, which seeks to increase the income tax subtraction modification for our retired public safety personnel.

This legislation is not merely a technical adjustment to the tax code; it is a vital investment in the people who protect our communities. By expanding the tax relief available to retired public safety personnel, Maryland can take a significant step toward honoring the physical, mental and emotional toll inherent in these professions.

Maryland risks losing its veteran public safety expertise to neighboring states with more favorable tax treatments for pension income. Many of our retirees find that their fixed incomes do not stretch as far as they once did due to the rising cost of living. By increasing the subtraction modification, it allows those who served Maryland to afford to stay in Maryland.

We should be doing everything in our power to ensure that those who answered the call and ran toward danger for decades can enjoy a dignified and stable retirement in the communities they helped build.

Furthermore, this bill serves as a tool for workforce morale and recruitment. Public safety agencies currently face staffing shortages. When prospective recruits look at a career in public service, it includes how they will be treated once they hang up the uniform. This bill shows that Maryland values its public safety personnel from their first day on the job through their retirement years.

SB 607 is a fair, necessary, and pro-community piece of legislation. It honors the contract between the state and its protectors - that Maryland will support them even in retirement. Again, we urge a favorable report on SB 607. Thank you.

