

# **SB338 Extension of Title 37 Final Report Date - Su**

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**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 338**  
**State Retirement and Pension System - Transfers Between Systems - Workgroup – Extension**  
**Senate Budget and Tax Committee**  
**February 5, 2026**  
**9:30 A.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 Senate Bill 338, State Retirement and Pension System - Transfers Between Systems - Workgroup - Extension. Senate Bill 338 is legislation sponsored by the Joint Committee on Pensions at the request of the Board.

Chapters 768 and 769 of 2025 established a workgroup to review the provisions Title 37 of the State Personnel and Pensions Article. Senate Bill 338 extends the date that the State Retirement Agency (Agency) is required to submit the findings and recommendations of the workgroup, including the need for any legislative initiatives, from December 1, 2025 to October 1, 2026.

The provisions of Title 37 govern transfers of service credit from one State or local retirement or pension system to another State or local retirement system. During the 2025 interim, the workgroup met several times to discuss the provisions included in Title 37. The last meeting of the workgroup took place in September, at which time we concluded discussing the provisions of Title 37. However, many of the issues we discussed over the interim require additional research regarding the legislative history of certain provisions before a draft of any recommended legislative changes can be prepared and submitted in a final report. This new submission date will provide the Agency with additional time to conduct the research necessary for the final recommendations of the workgroup and allow the Joint Committee on Pensions to consider any recommendations for amendments to Title 37 for the 2027 session during its 2026 interim meetings.

We appreciate being given this opportunity to express our support to the Budget and Tax Committee for this legislation and would request a favorable report on Senate Bill 338.

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Patrick Moran – President

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**SB 338 – State Retirement and Pension System - Transfers Between Systems –  
Workgroup – Extension  
Budget and Taxation Committee  
February 5, 2026**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

AFSCME Council 3 approximately 55,000 state, county, and municipal employees across Maryland, many of whom are participants in our local and state pension systems. Our members appreciate having an opportunity to be represented wherever discussions around their pay, benefits, and working conditions are happening, and we are proud to support Senate Bill 338. AFSCME is a participating stakeholder of the Title 37 workgroup that was formed with Chapters 768 and 769 of 2025. This legislation will enable the workgroup to continue its review of the complex processes for transfers of participating members between our state and local retirement and pensions systems.

We urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 338. Thank you.

The following states that have collective bargaining for state employees, AK, CA, CT, DC, DE, HI, IL, ME, MN, NE, NJ, NM, NV, OH, OR, PA, MT, RI, WA have a terminal point for negotiations, either binding interest arbitration, the right to strike, or a legislative process. These processes create a level playing field for both parties.

This legislation would create a mutual incentive to compel parties to reach an agreement around collective bargaining negotiations by instilling a binding interest arbitration process, whereby if the two sides cannot come to agreement through negotiations by a specified deadline the proposals.

From the two sides would be presented to a professional, neutral third- party arbitrator – hearing from witnesses and experts, with data and evidence – for consideration of all the facts involved with the purpose of determining which proposal is most appropriate to implement. The choice by the arbitrator would then be considered a binding resolution to be implemented by the Governor and exclusive bargaining representative for whatever appropriations are necessary to implement and fund the memorandum of understanding. The budgetary powers of the Maryland General Assembly remain unaltered.

SB 188 is a strong and positive step toward enhancing fairness, balance, and efficiency, and resolution. It follows a model that is well-established in other states and among Maryland counties. We urge a favorable report.

