

SB 607 - Income Tax – Subtraction Modification for

Uploaded by: Denise Riley

Position: FAV



A Union of Professionals
AFT-Maryland

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Kenya Campbell
PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY-TREASURER

**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.

Senate Bill 607 (2026) PFFMD Testimony - J. Buddle

Uploaded by: Jeffrey Buddle

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 607
Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Public Safety Retirement Income - Amount
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Position: Favorable

On behalf of the Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland, I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 607, which would increase the income tax subtraction modification for qualifying public safety retirement income from \$15,000 to \$20,000, beginning in taxable year 2026. This increase would be phased in over the next five years in increments of \$1,000 per year until the full \$20,000 subtraction is reached.

In the 2023 Session, the General Assembly enacted Senate Bill 533, which increased the retirement income subtraction modification for military retirement income from \$15,000 to \$20,000. That legislation acknowledged both the unique demands of military service and the need for Maryland’s tax code to better reflect the sacrifices made by those who serve. Senate Bill 607 extends that same policy rationale to public safety retirees, who similarly dedicate their careers to protecting the public and are often subject to early or mandatory retirement due to the physical and psychological demands of their professions.

Without this adjustment, public safety retirees remain subject to a lower subtraction amount than military retirees, despite facing comparable risks, service commitments, and career limitations. Senate Bill 607 promotes parity and fairness within Maryland’s retirement tax framework by aligning the treatment of public safety retirement income with the General Assembly’s prior action on military retirement income.

Public safety professionals—including law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and correctional officers—provide essential services that safeguard Maryland’s residents and communities. Increasing the subtraction modification supports economic stability for retirees on fixed incomes, enhances Maryland’s ability to recruit and retain qualified public safety personnel, and demonstrates the State’s continued commitment to those who serve in high-risk public service roles.

Senate Bill 607 is a modest, targeted measure that builds upon established legislative precedent and reflects Maryland's recognition of the sacrifices shared by both military and public safety professionals. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a **favorable report** on Senate Bill 607.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Submitted respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey Buddle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey Buddle, President
Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland

The membership of the Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland includes 23 IAFF local affiliates from the following jurisdictions:

Federal: National Capital Federal Fire Fighters

State: Baltimore / Washington International Airport

Local: Annapolis City, Allegany County, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City (2 affiliates), Baltimore County, Carroll County, Cecil County, Charles County, Cumberland City, Frederick County, Garrett County, Hagerstown, Howard County, Montgomery County, Ocean City, Prince Georges County, Queen Annes County, Salisbury, Talbot County, Worchester County

SB 607 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Marvin "DOC" Cheatham

Position: FAV

CORY V. MCCRAY
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Budget and Taxation Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee
Health and Human Services Subcommittee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes On Senate Bill 0607

Bill Title: Income Tax – Subtraction Modification for Public Safety Retirement Income – Amount

Committee: Budget and Taxation Committee

Hearing Date: February 18th, 2026

Dear Chair and Honorable Members of the Committee,

Senate Bill 607 phases in an increase to the subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax for retirement income attributable to service as a public safety employee. The bill gradually raises the eligible subtraction amount from \$15,000 to \$20,000 over several years, providing predictable and sustainable tax relief.

Public safety employees, including correctional officers, law enforcement officers, firefighters, rescue personnel, and emergency medical technicians, dedicate their careers to protecting Maryland communities. Many retire after physically demanding and high-risk service. This legislation recognizes their commitment by allowing them to retain more of their earned retirement income.

By phasing in the increase over time, the bill balances support for retirees with responsible fiscal planning. It offers meaningful relief while allowing the State to manage the budgetary impact in a measured way.

Respectfully,

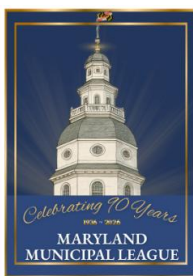
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory V. McCray'.

Cory V. McCray
45th District

MML - SB607 - INFO.pdf

Uploaded by: Justin Fiore

Position: INFO



TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE: Senate Budget and Taxation

DATE: February 18, 2026

POSITION: Informational

BILL: SB 607

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) appreciates the intent of subtraction modification legislation and the impact it can have on businesses and residents. However, we do believe it is important to highlight that such bills have a trickle-down impact on municipal governments, which receive 17% of the local income tax from their residents.

Local governments are better positioned for success when their revenue sources are consistent, and they have opportunities to balance the scales with local consideration. This is why MML has long advocated for optional local tax credits versus state mandates or subtraction modifications. Similarly, we would advocate for state tax credits in lieu of subtraction modifications to meet the goals of the proposed legislation.

We ask you to keep this in mind when considering SB 607.

For more information relating to this piece of testimony, please contact:

Justin Fiore: Director, Advocacy and Public Policy, justinf@mdmunicipal.org