

**SB 647 B&T 03-05-2025 - SLEOLA - FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Brian Gill

Position: FAV



**State Law Enforcement  
Officers Labor Alliance**  
542 Ritchie Highway  
Severna Park, Maryland 21146



March 5, 2026

The Honorable Guy Guzzone.  
Budget and Taxation  
3 West Miller State Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: SB 647 – Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System and State Police  
Retirement System – Line-of-Duty Catastrophic Injury Disability**

Dear Chair Guzzone:

The State Law Enforcement Labor Alliance (SLEOLA) is the exclusive representative for more than 1,700 active state law enforcement officers, including the following agencies:

- Maryland State Police
- Maryland Natural Resources Police
- Field Enforcement Bureau
- Maryland State Fire Marshall
- Maryland Capitol Police
- Department of Health Police
- Maryland Vehicle Administration Police
- Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Intelligence and Investigative Division
- Warrant Apprehension Unit of the Division of Parole and Probation in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

SLEOLA is writing in support of Senate Bill 647. Everyday law enforcement officers across Maryland put their lives on the line to serve and protect their communities. Unfortunately, the nature of this work can lead to serious injuries that permanently incapacitate officers. Despite the dangers, officers are expected to return to their duties or transition to retirement without adequate support if they are injured in the line of duty.

Currently, the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System and the State Police Retirement System provide retirement benefits to those who are incapacitated due to work-related injuries. However, these benefits often do not fully reflect the gravity of the injuries, or the extent of the disability sustained. Senate Bill 647 proposes a vital improvement by ensuring that law enforcement officers who suffer from catastrophic injuries that prevent them from engaging in any substantial gainful activity will be compensated appropriately.

Law enforcement officers who sacrifice their health and safety in service to the state deserve to have their sacrifices acknowledged and supported, especially when they are unable to return to their duties. SB 647 ensures that law enforcement members who are determined to be disabled will receive a disability pension equal to one hundred percent of their final average compensation. This will ensure consistency across pension systems and make it easier to manage cases of permanent disability. SB 647 also ensures that Maryland law enforcement officers who have dedicated their lives to public safety are not left without critical financial resources if they are permanently disabled due to their service to their communities.

For these reasons, the State Law Enforcement Labor Alliance would like to thank the sponsor of this bill and ask the Committee for a favorable report for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Brian Gill  
President

cc: Members, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

**SB0647-343223-1.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jack Bailey

Position: FWA



**SB0647/343223/1**

AMENDMENTS  
PREPARED  
BY THE  
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE  
SERVICES

16 FEB 26  
09:28:04

BY: Senator Bailey

(To be offered in the Budget and Taxation Committee)

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 647

(First Reading File Bill)

On page 9, in line 23, after "OCCURRED" insert "IN THE ACTUAL PERFORMANCE OF DUTY".

**SenatorBailey\_FWA\_SB647.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jack Bailey

Position: FWA

**JACK BAILEY**  
*Legislative District 29*  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Budget & Taxation Committee



**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

*Annapolis Office*  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 401  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3673  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3673  
Jack.Bailey@senate.maryland.gov

*District Office*  
23680 Three Notch Road, Unit 101  
Hollywood, Maryland 20636  
240-309-4238

March 5, 2026

**Senate Bill 647 - Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System and State Police Retirement System - Line-of-Duty Catastrophic Injury Disability**

Dear Chair Lewis Young and Members of the Subcommittee,

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 647. This bill will provide a line-of-duty disability allowance to be paid to a member of the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System (LEOPS) or the State Police Retirement System (SPRS) who is found to be disabled and unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity.

Under current law, a member of one of these pension systems who is disabled in the line of duty can receive an allowance equal to two-thirds of their compensation at the time of the injury. Two years ago, the Joint Chairmen's Report requested that the State Retirement Agency report on how Maryland could award a special and accidental disability benefit for catastrophic injuries that result in a member of these two pension systems being unable to work in any capacity equal to 100% of the member's annual compensation at the time their injury occurred. Senate Bill 647 is intended to accomplish this objective and provide this benefit.

The current 66 2/3 benefit is intended to account for the fact that about one-third of the individual's paycheck would be taxed otherwise. However, this does not account for other paycheck deductions that many of us are familiar with, particularly the cost of health insurance. Providing this enhanced benefit to our police who have been catastrophically injured in the line of duty will ensure that their income can continue to cover their cost of living, and that their disability does not result in an effective reduction in the amount of income they receive.

Senate Bill 647 will support those officers who have become catastrophically injured in the line of duty while protecting the residents of this State. I know that this subcommittee understands the importance of ensuring that our State takes care of the brave men and women who work to keep Maryland safe.

This bill is similar to a bill that I sponsored last year, Senate Bill 812, but has been revised to address some of the concerns that were discussed during the consideration of that legislation. I am submitting with this bill an amendment that makes the bill's provisions consistent for each System. I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 647 with this amendment. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Bailey'.

Senator Jack Bailey