

Testimony For HB0002

Honorable Delegates

Please enter a favorable report for HB0002.

I support altering the amount allowed as a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax for certain retirement income attributable to an individual's employment as a public safety employee.

On the surface, increasing the subtraction modification from \$15,000 to \$20,000 seems to be a modest increase for safety officers who spent many years toiling at a relatively low paying, dangerous job. Upon retirement, property taxes have increased, utility costs have sky rocketed, and many basic fees such as car registration and emission testing have gone up. It seems the least we can do to support their service to the State.

I read last session's testimony and understand that the Counties and Independent cities are reluctant to lose income during these trying economic times. However, there must be some bloat in their budgets they can cut to offset this loss of income.

I was disappointed that there was no fiscal analysis posted for the 2026 bill. I have found over the years, the overworked fiscal staff often does not have time to produce an analysis until after the due date for testimony.

Consequently, I looked at the 2025 session info for the prior bill and was surprised that there was no analysis posted. How can one make an informed decision about this bill without this type of data? How many retired safety employees are there and how much state and county revenue would be affected

Everyone seems to support the idea, but those that testified against the bill did so because they believed it was too costly to pass. However, they did not state any data to support their claims that the costs outweighed the benefits. Those supporting the bill likewise did not present any data to persuade the dissenters that the costs were worth the benefits.

Without any data to show that the cost is too prohibitive, I believe we should make this change to show our appreciation to the retired safety officers who did a job many of us would not do, even if the pay and work conditions were much better than what they experienced.

Please enter a favorable report for HB0211.

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January 16, 2026