



M a r y l a n d Troopers Association



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The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair and Members of House Appropriations Committee

RE: HB 1230 State Prescription Drug Benefits - Retirees

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Troopers Association (MTA) has a membership strength of approximately 2,629 members of which 1,120 are active sworn members and 1,509 are retirees. It is organized into twelve Lodges located throughout the State of Maryland.

HB1230 introduced by Del. Boetler repeals the action taken in the 2011 Budget Reconciliation & Financing Act that eliminated the State Prescription Drug Benefit Plan for retirees once they reach 65 years of age for certain state retirees based on the date of their state service beginning. For state retirees who began their state service after July 1, 2011 the actions taken in the 2011 Budget Reconciliations and Financing Act and SB946 of the 2019 Legislative Session will be applicable. For any retiree who began their state service prior to July 1, 2011 the current prescription drug benefit will be maintained throughout their retirement.

While we understand the financial obligation that this action places on the State of Maryland, this was an obligation the State took on when hiring a Trooper and was understood by both the Trooper and the employer during their many years of service.

State Troopers began their careers with the understanding that Health and Prescription benefits would be provided to them during their employment with the state and continue through their retirement years based on eligible service time.

Troopers planned for their retirement based on these benefits and it is very unfair and disingenuous to change the benefit rules in the middle of their retirement years. Troopers put their lives on the line every day to serve the citizens of Maryland and the State has a moral obligation to keep the agreement that these officers expected, and the State promised.

Therefore, the Maryland Troopers Association supports HB1230 and requests a favorable report.

Brian Blubaugh
President
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Member of National Troopers Coalition

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