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Patrick Moran - President

Testimony
SB 487 – Military Service Credit - Eligibility
Pensions / Budget & Taxation
March 5, 2020
Support

AFSCME supports SB 487. This legislation would remove the prohibition against allowing military service credit to state employees who are active duty retirees and are in the Correctional Retirement System, the State Police Retirement System, or Law Enforcement Retirement System.

Recruitment

There are 1,000 vacant positions among Correctional Officers, and difficulty in recruiting State Police as well. A likely source of recruitment is former military personnel. In fact, the web site used by the Division of Correction seems very much geared toward interesting folks who have retired from the military.

Fairness: If a person receives retirement benefits from the National Guard or the Reserves they can already get this service credit. This bill will equalize that benefit. This is particularly important when two employees work side-by-side but get different benefits.

Skills and Experience: Not only does this bill incentivize individuals to work for the State, but also they are likely to arrive with important skills and experience that are badly needed in jobs associated with LEOPS, State Police and Corrections.

The key thing about this legislation is that it would not only provide equity among military retirees, it would assist with responding to the critical shortages of staff in a number of key agencies. We urge you to provide a favorable report.

Every AFSCME Maryland State and University contract guarantees a right to union representation.
An employee has the right to a union representative if requested by the employee.
800.492.1996

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