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Patrick Moran - President

Testimony
SB 803 – Correctional Services - Drinking Driver Monitor Program - Position
Requirement
Appropriations
April 4, 2022
Support

AFSCME Council 3 strongly supports the passage of SB 803. This legislation would require the establishment of a new Monitor III employee position classification in the Drinking Driver Monitor Program in the Division of Parole and Probation in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

Drinking Driver Monitors are the Parole & Probation Agents for those convicted of DUI. Yet they are not treated the same as their fellow colleagues. Drinking Driver Monitors are hired as a DDM I, and after as few as one year of satisfactory performance they are promoted through a non-competitive process to a DDM II. But while P&P Agents can graduate to a “III” position, the DDMs do not have that career route. They are frozen, unless they want to become a Supervisor, which not everyone wants to pursue.

The General Assembly looked into this in 2019, asking DPSCS if it was feasible to create a senior position and enhanced career path. They responded with an outline of what that would take – and then did not pursue it.

Last year the General Assembly asked DPSCS to make a plan to create a DDMP Monitor III position. They declined but noted that 61% of resignations from DDMP Monitors came from those **with 15 or more years of experience**. This clearly indicates that, after so many years of service, there is a frustration with not being able to move further along in their career, receiving acknowledgment of their experience and dedication.

AFSCME asks for a career path – and opportunity – for DDMs that mirrors P&P Agents. The very people they work alongside with every day. We ask for a favorable report of SB 803.

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.
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