



**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®,
MARYLAND LODGE #70**

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O'Brien Atkinson
PRESIDENT

Kala Jenkins
SECRETARY

RE: HB 697 and SB 434: Anne Arundel County – Property Tax Credit – Disabled or Fallen Law Enforcement Officers and Rescue Workers, Surviving Spouses, and Cohabitants

Position: SUPPORT

Chairwoman Atterbeary and Members of the House Way and Means Committee:

This Maryland Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #70 and the Maryland State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police **SUPPORT House Bill 697 and Senate Bill 434**. This bill expands eligibility for law enforcement officers who have retired due to a service-related disability to receive a property tax credit upon moving to Anne Arundel County. This is enabling legislation and requires the Anne Arundel County Council to pass legislation to enact the credit.

Currently, law enforcement officers who receive a property tax credit due to their disability retirement status are tied to their current residence. This presents problems as these officers, who have given so much of themselves in a quantifiably physical way, are essentially tied to their current residence. The tax credit that they rely upon cannot be transferred to a different county of residence. There can be a myriad of reasons that someone decides to move and dropping a financial burden on such an important life decision poses an unfair restriction. This bill would simply allow the residents of Anne Arundel County, through their elected county government, to extend an already existing tax credit to those disabled law enforcement officers who elect to move to Anne Arundel County.

We ask you to **SUPPORT HB 697** so that the citizens of Anne Arundel County may decide for themselves whether to accept with open arms the brave law enforcement officers who have given so much to our state and our community.

Fraternally,

Cpl. O'Brien Atkinson
President, FOP Lodge #70

Lt. Michael Shier, esq.
Legislative Chairman, FOP Lodge 70

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