



STATE RETIREMENT AGENCY
120 East Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21202-6700

MARYLAND
STATE RETIREMENT
and PENSION SYSTEM

410-625-5555 • 1-800-492-5909
TTY Users: call via Maryland Relay
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**Testimony in Support of House Bill 415
State Police Retirement System and Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System – Deferred
Retirement Option Program – Technical Correction
House Appropriations Committee**

**February 6, 2024
1:00 P.M.**

**Anne Gawthrop
Director of Legislative Affairs
State Retirement Agency**

The Board of Trustees for the State Retirement and Pension System wishes to express its support for House Bill 415, State Police Retirement System and Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System – Deferred Retirement Option Program – Technical Correction. House Bill 415 is legislation sponsored by the Joint Committee on Pensions at the request of the Board.

Chapter 400 of the Acts of 2023 extends the timeframe for participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Program (“DROP”) for members of the State Police Retirement System (“SPRS”) and Law Enforcement Officers Pension System (“LEOPS”) from five years to seven years. Section 2 of Chapter 400 creates a 6-month election period, from July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, for current SPRS and LEOPS DROP members to extend their DROP participation for two extra years, but erroneously states that LEOPS members currently participating in the DROP who wish to extend their participation in the DROP to seven years, must terminate DROP by age 60, similar to the mandatory retirement age for members of the SPRS. Provisions of the State Personnel and Pensions Article provide that only members of the SPRS are subject to a mandatory retirement age of 60. House Bill 415 corrects this inadvertent reference to mandatory retirement for the LEOPS members currently participating in the DROP.

We appreciate being given this opportunity to express our support to the Appropriations Committee for this legislation and would request a favorable report on House Bill 415.

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