



February 21, 2017

The Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB 602 – State Retirement and Pension System – State Employees and Teachers – Benefits – Support

Dear Senator Kasemeyer:

Senate Bill 602 alters the specified local employer contributions for members of the Teachers' Pension System. It establishes a State Employees' and Teachers' Integrated Pension System and a State Employees' and Teachers' Integrated Pension System Savings Plan for individuals who are members of the Employees' Pension System or the Teachers' Pension System on or after July 1.

The Legislative Committee of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce supports this bill as we believe it will begin the process of converting to a more tenable retirement plan system for Maryland state employees.

It is a known fact that Maryland state retirement plans are underfunded. Many states face the same dilemma and must find a way to transition to a more sensible retirement system. At some point the problem will become irreversible. Teachers need to know they will have dependable retirement plan options. The state of Maryland is at a critical juncture as the competition to attract new business and individuals is increasing. Moreover, the move toward increased regulation has had a negative impact on our business climate. We need to reverse this cycle for the future generations of Marylanders or we continue to lose both residents and businesses and at the same time become unattractive to those who are looking become residents.

We therefore ask that your committee consider the positive long term benefits of Senate Bill 602 and give this bill a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mike McMullin'.

Michael McMullin, President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Senator Justin Ready
Delegate Susan W. Krebs

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