March 24, 2024

 CLYDE BOATWRIGHT

STATE PRESIDENT

KENNY SCHUBERT

SECRETARY

EARL KRATSCH

TREASURER

**Maryland State Lodge**

**Fraternal Order of Police**

**8302 COVE ROAD, BALTIMORE, MD 21222**

Brothers and Sisters,

Beginning October 1st, 2023, SB 1 **banned public carry in most buildings by default unless a building's owner or agent provides express consent to carry inside**. It also made a host of places completely off-limits regardless of what the property owner says (Criminal Law Section 6-411).  When it was passed by the General Assembly last year, the bill was supposed to include an exemption for retired police officers in Maryland who are certified and have the right to carry in Maryland.  This forgotten exemption was contrary to the intentions of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA) which allows retired officers with proper credentials to carry throughout the United States. We were assured by the leadership of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee last year that this mistake would be corrected this year.  There is a very simple legislative fix that is currently in the hands of Senators Will Smith and Jeff Waltsreicher.

We worked tirelessly with the leadership in JPR and other Senators to ensure that the carry rights of Retired Officers were protected and were ensured that they were in the final version of Senate Bill 1. Senator Beidle attempted to point out the omission of the exemption for retirees in section 6-411 on the floor during final debate on the bill. She was given assurances that retired officers were covered and the bill went on to a vote and was passed with the omission. (<https://photos.app.goo.gl/GtQM884LvFyB51ne6>) The omission was brought up to leadership in JPR immediately, to include the bill sponsor and vice chair of the JPR committee, Senator Waldstreicher. We had assurances from the Senator that we would be able to get this fixed this session. To date we have not been able to secure a fix. No bill was drafted by the Senator and despite being told another avenue for the fix could/would be found, as of today, there is no indication that there will be an attempt to fix this mistake. This fact is highly frustrating and infuriating. We desperately need your help to get this fix to happen. We are quickly running out of time. Please help us by calling your local representative on either the JPR or Judiciary Committee and ask them to reach out to Senator Smith and Senator Waldstreicher to fix this wrong. At the very least we need to let them all know of our frustration, disappointment, and anger at the lack of a resolution for this and the message that this will send to the police officers in this State by allowing the ball to be dropped on this fix.

**\*\*CALL TO ACTION!!!!!\*\***

\*\*LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD BY CONTACTING THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS (JPR) COMMITTEE\*\*

**CALL AND LET THE LEGISLATORS KNOW THEY NEED TO FOLLOW THROUGH AND FIX THE MISTAKE IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2023’s SENATE BILL 1 TO PROTECT OUR RETIREES AND OUR COMMUNITIES!**

-BELOW ARE THE LINKS FOR EACH COMMITTEE-

* PLEASE CLICK THE LINK FOR EACH COMMITTEE BELOW
* THEN CLICK THE MEMBERSHIP TAB ON THE NEW PAGE





* FIND AND CLICK THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR YOUR AREA
* CALL AND TELL THEM TO GET THE FIX TO SB-1 DONE!!!!

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE : <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Committees/Details?cmte=jud>

SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Committees/Details?cmte=jpr>

**\*\*\*PLEASE ACT NOW!!!!!\*\*\***

Fraternally,

Angelo L. Consoli Jr,