

NORTH CAROLINA POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

2008 STATE HOUSE & SENATE SCREENING QUESTIONS

ISSUE: 25 YEAR RETIREMENT

BACKGROUND:

The North Carolina Police Benevolent Association has been actively supporting 25-year retirement legislation for our officers for more than a decade. Many other law enforcement associations have joined with the PBA, in supporting the legislative efforts to provide 25-year retirement for North Carolina law enforcement officers. Virginia and South Carolina already have 25-year retirement plans in place.

FBI research reveals that the average life span for a police officer is 59 years of age. Research also shows that the life expectancy for police officers in the United States is 15 years less than that of the general population. Studies also show that being a cop "on the job" substantially reduces life expectancy, increases the risk of health problems and diseases, and subjects officers to a substantial daily risk of injury and death.

With this in mind three bills were introduced during this past session in the North Carolina Senate and House to address this issue. Two bills were aimed at reducing the 30-year retirement to 25 years for all state and local law enforcement officers. A local option bill was also introduced to provide officers in Durham County the chance to purchase time from the retirement system in two and four year increments to lessen the 30 year burden.

QUESTION: 1

If elected/re-elected, would you publicly sponsor or vote for and/or recommend that General Assembly support 25 year retirement for law enforcement officers in any forthcoming legislative sessions?