

SENATE BILL 1013

E4

9lr3227

By: **Senators Serafini and Gallion**

Introduced and read first time: February 27, 2019

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Task Force on Volunteer Fire Companies and Rescue Squads**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Volunteer Fire Companies and Rescue
4 Squads; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force;
5 prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but
6 authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to
7 study and make recommendations regarding certain matters relating to staffing and
8 recruitment for volunteer fire companies and rescue squads; requiring the Task
9 Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General
10 Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and
11 generally relating to the Task Force on Volunteer Fire Companies and Rescue
12 Squads.

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
14 That:

15 (a) There is a Task Force on Volunteer Fire Companies and Rescue Squads.

16 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

17 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
18 the Senate;

19 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
20 the House;

21 (3) two members of the Executive Branch, appointed by the Governor;

22 (4) the State Fire Marshal, or the State Fire Marshal's designee;

23 (5) one representative of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 designated by the Agency;

2 (6) one representative of the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute,
3 designated by the Institute;

4 (7) one representative of the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical
5 Services Systems, designated by the Institute;

6 (8) the following members of the Maryland State Firemen's Association:

7 (i) the president;

8 (ii) the Executive Committee chair;

9 (iii) the first vice president;

10 (iv) one member of the EMS Committee, designated by the
11 Association;

12 (v) the chair of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee; and

13 (vi) one ex officio member of the Association, designated by the
14 Association;

15 (9) the president of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association, or the
16 president's designee; and

17 (10) the following members of the Maryland Association of Counties:

18 (i) the president;

19 (ii) one ex officio member, designated by the president;

20 (iii) one representative of the Large County Coalition, designated by
21 the president; and

22 (iv) one representative of the Rural County Coalition, designated by
23 the president.

24 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

25 (d) The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall provide staff
26 for the Task Force.

27 (e) A member of the Task Force:

28 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

1 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
2 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

3 (f) The Task Force shall:

4 (1) examine staffing levels of volunteer fire companies and rescue squads
5 in the State;

6 (2) review current volunteer fire company and rescue squad recruitment
7 practices across the State;

8 (3) evaluate the costs and impact of training requirements and technology
9 requirements on staffing and recruitment levels;

10 (4) examine the different challenges and needs of rural, suburban, and
11 urban volunteer fire companies and rescue squads; and

12 (5) study the efforts of other states to address and combat volunteer fire
13 company and rescue squad staffing shortages.

14 (g) On or before December 31, 2019, the Task Force shall report its findings and
15 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
16 Government Article, the General Assembly.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
18 1, 2019. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31, 2020, this
19 Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no
20 further force and effect.