

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel



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SUPPORT OF HB 0823; Public Safety – State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement

Chairman Barve
Vice Chairman Stein
Environment and Transportation Committee

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, Vice Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Kate Tomanelli and I am the Executive Director for the Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA), a statewide organization representing over 25,000 volunteer fire, rescue, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics and 363 member companies.

The MSFA is requesting a favorable report for HB 823, which would give the State Fire Marshal's office the enforcement capabilities it needs to make sure that all of the counties, jurisdictions, and home builders are following the current Maryland LAW that requires fire sprinklers to be installed in all new one and two family homes.

This bill is not only necessary, but it makes the most sense. It would create consistency and effectiveness across all of our partner organizations having one agency within the State that not only licenses contactors, inspects and tests fire protection systems, and performs fire protection system plan reviews, but also enforces our fire sprinkler laws. No other agency would be better tasked with this than the State Fire Marshal's office.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Tomanelli
MSFA, Executive Director