

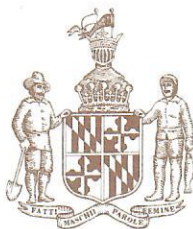
DANIEL L. COX
Legislative District 4
Frederick and Carroll Counties

Judiciary Committee

Subcommittees

Family Law

Public Safety



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 14, 2020

HB Bill 562 Income Tax- Subtraction Modification- Volunteer Fire, Rescue, and Emergency
Medical Services Personnel (First Responders Tax Benefit Act)

Dear Chair and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

Maryland has over 25,000 volunteer fire, rescue, emergency medical technicians and paramedics which serve in 363 volunteer fire companies all across our state. Foremost, they are there when we and our neighbors experience some of our darkest hours: personal injuries, home fires, or worse the loss of a loved one.

We depend on these people who give their time and energies to us. These volunteers spend their time at the fire house waiting for the next call and also spend hours of training so that they can perfect the service that they provide us for free. They contribute mightily to that invaluable sense of community that is so important to our land of pleasant living.

And these thousands of volunteers, in your district and mine, save us money. While the purpose of my bill seems loaded with numbers, the real purpose is not to simply thank some of Maryland finest citizen for their service; but also, to encourage them to continue to volunteer and retain them as volunteers.

This bill provides for more immediate benefits to new volunteers and will enhance their retention. Specifically, this bill reduces the number of hours required to participate in the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) from 50 hours to 30. And reduces the number of active months from 36 months to 12 in a 10 year period for qualifying as an active member.

Thank you for your consideration and I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dan Cox'.

Dan Cox