

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel
www.msfa.org



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Madam Chair Kaiser

Vice Chairman Washington

SUPPORT OF HB 769 – Education – High School Students – Graduation and Attendance Credit for Vocational Training

Good afternoon Madam Chair Kaiser, Vice Chairman Washington and members of the Ways and Means Committee.

My name is Johnie Roth, Jr. and I chair the Legislative Committee of the Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA), and I am writing in SUPPORT of Delegate Adams HB 769 regarding High School Students receiving graduation attendance credit for Vocational Training.

The MSFA is a statewide organization representing over 25,000 volunteer fire, rescue, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics and 363 member companies.

The fire and rescue services of the state look at this opportunity as a win for both the students and for volunteer and career departments. High School is the time for students to look towards their future and what they want to do upon graduation. As leaders, we look at this as an opportunity to recruit and attract young men and women into the field of services to the communities and the state. As a Past Chief and current President of the Sandy Spring Volunteer

Fire Department in Montgomery County, I would look forward to young students from Sherwood, Blake, and Magruder High Schools joining our department as volunteers and they would come with some of the required training in advance and at the same time fulfilling their high school requirements and receiving that credit.

For a student that chooses to become either a volunteer or career Firefighter or Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) it takes much time to complete these courses but in the end it is rewarding. As an example, today becoming an EMT is more than 165 hours of training and to become a Firefighter it is 168 hours. Of course these number of hours do not include Hazardous Materials, Weapons of Mass Destruction, or any other basic training classes. The advantage for us is that these people are getting the entry training out of the way in advance and at the same time are receiving credit for graduation from High School. This is in no way any encouragement for any student to not continue their educational goals of going to college and yet it provides them with a great opportunity and alternative option to their future.

Madam Chair it for these reasons that the MSFA is in favor of and is glad to support this bill and request a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB 769.

Thank you Madam Chair I'd be glad to answer any question that you may have.

**Johnie F. Roth, Jr.
MSFA Chairman
Legislative Committee**