

JACK BAILEY
Legislative District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Budget & Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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January 19, 2023

Senate Bill 76 – Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Public Safety Volunteers

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 76 – Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Public Safety Volunteers. This bill would simplify the tax deductions we provide for our State's public safety volunteers by combining provisions of law establishing two existing subtraction modifications, one for police auxiliaries and reserve volunteers and one for volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical services members. The bill also increases the amount of the combined subtraction modification to \$10,000.

In prior years, these two deductions have been set at identical amounts. However, they are not currently linked in statute. As a result, an increase in the subtraction modification for volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical services members does not automatically result in an increase for police auxiliaries and reserve volunteers.

In 2018, the General Assembly passed legislation to phase in an increase to the deduction for volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical services members to \$7,000 in 2022 and going forward. No corresponding legislation has been passed for police auxiliaries and reserve volunteers, so their subtraction modification is currently set at \$5,000. Senate Bill 76 combines these into a single deduction to ensure that this disparity will not happen again in the future and raises the deduction for all public safety volunteers to \$10,000 going forward.

During the last legislative session, this Committee and the full Senate passed Senate Bill 117, which would have increased the deduction for police auxiliaries and reserve volunteers to match the deduction for volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical services members. While Senate Bill 76 now combines the two subtraction modifications, the intent of the bill is still the same, and the \$10,000 amount for the deduction matches the bill as it passed this Committee last year.

Senate Bill 76 will simplify Maryland's tax code, provide parity between police volunteers and volunteer fire, rescue, and EMS workers, and increase the deduction for all of our public safety volunteers who are essential to protect the people of this State. I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 76. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey