

Ed Smith

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Date: February 6, 2024

Subject: Request for Amendment to Senate Bill 588 - Inclusion of "The District of Columbia"

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I trust this testimony finds you well. My name is Edward Smith, and I am a lifelong resident of Maryland, currently residing in Caroline County. I am writing to you respectfully to bring attention to an important matter concerning Senate Bill 588.

With a dedicated service record spanning over 29 years in the District of Columbia Fire Department, I have had the honor of serving as a protector of our Nation's Capital. Considering my experience, I am seeking an amendment to Senate Bill 588 to explicitly include "The District of Columbia" in 10-207 (a)(1)(v). The current wording of the bill has proven to be ambiguous since its enactment, and I believe it requires clarification.

Having been on duty during the tragic events of 9/11/01 and responding to incidents at both our Capitol and the White House throughout my career, I take immense pride in the responsibilities that come with safeguarding our Nation's Capital. Additionally, it's worth noting that our pension checks are distributed by the Federal Treasury, underscoring the federal nature of our service.

Despite these factors, I was surprised and disheartened to discover that we are not currently covered under the existing legislation. Given the evident significance of our Nation's Capital within the scope of Senate Bill 588, I urge you to consider the proposed amendment. This amendment would not only rectify the current oversight but also ensure that all those who have served in protecting our Nation's Capital receive the recognition and support they deserve.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this favorable position with amendment. If you would like to discuss this further or require any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Additionally, thank you for your dedication to public service, and I look forward to a positive resolution to this matter.

Sincerely,

Edward C. Smith

Edward C. Smith
Retired Firefighter
District of Columbia Fire Department