

SB 580 Dennis Beard Testimony

Uploaded by: Dennis E. Beard

Position: FAV

Testimony – Dennis Beard, President

MD Fire-Rescue Services Memorial Foundation

- On behalf of The Foundation, I want to thank the State of MD for allowing us to lease land in Annapolis where we could build and maintain a memorial that remembers and honors fire, rescue and emergency medical services personnel from throughout our State who have given their lives in the line of duty – that number currently stands at 452 individuals.
- We are proud of this Memorial on that State land that greets thousands of visitors to our State Capitol each and every day.
- The upkeep of the Memorial is ongoing and expensive. In 2023 alone that figure was \$23,365 to cover utilities, grass mowings, spring and fall plantings, tree maintenance, snow removal, fountain maintenance and managing other unforeseen emergencies that arise.
- To raise those funds, the Foundation sells items like t-shirts, challenge coins, paver bricks and holds an annual silent auction. To say it's a STRUGGLE for this all-volunteer organization to cover the annual maintenance fees is an understatement.
- When, in 2009 we had to begin paying sales tax to the State, that struggle was compounded. To date, while maintaining the property located on state land, we have paid \$7,245 in sales tax.
- We are asking that the sales tax be waived – not just for our Foundation – but for any non-profit organization that uses the proceeds of sale items to maintain a memorial located on
- property that is owned by the State of Maryland.

Senate Bill 580 (2024) PFFMD Testimony - J. Buddle

Uploaded by: Jeffrey Buddle

Position: FAV



February 7, 2024

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Position: FAVORABLE

Re: SB580 Sales & Use Tax - Nonprofit Organizations Maintaining Memorials - Exemption

The Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland represents more than 10,000 active and retired professional fire fighters and emergency medical services personnel who proudly serve the citizens of the State of Maryland.

This legislation would cover the Maryland Fire & Rescue Services Memorial Foundation which is responsible for maintaining the memorial that honors all fire fighters that have died in the line of duty in the State of Maryland. Notably, this memorial is located on State property just footsteps outside the buildings of the State Capital Complex.

The legislation as proposed is good common-sense tax policy to not assess a sales tax on monetary proceeds raised by non-profit organizations that in turn are used to maintain or make improvements to memorials located on State owned property.

On behalf of the members of Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland, we urge a bipartisan and unanimous favorable report on Senate Bill 580.

Submitted respectfully,

Jeffrey Buddle, President
Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland

The membership of the Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland includes 27 IAFF local affiliates from the following jurisdictions:

Federal: Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Fort George G. Meade, National Capital Federal Fire Fighters, National Institutes of Health

State: Baltimore / Washington International Airport

Local: Annapolis City, Allegany County, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City (2 affiliates), Baltimore County, Carroll County, Cecil County, Charles County, Cumberland City, Frederick County, Garrett County, Hagerstown, Howard County, Montgomery County, Ocean City, Prince Georges County, Queen Annes County, Salisbury, St. Mary County, Talbot County, Worchester County

SB 580 Fire & EMS Support Letter.pdf

Uploaded by: Mike McKay

Position: FAV

February, 2024

RE: Fire/EMS Coalition Support for Senate Bill 580

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

The Fire/EMS Coalition would like to express their support for Senate Bill 580: **Sales and Use Tax - Nonprofit Organizations Maintaining Memorials - Exemption**. This bill provides that the sales and use tax does not apply to a sale by a nonprofit organization that maintains a memorial on property that is owned by the State if the proceeds of the sale are used to maintain a memorial on property that is owned by the State.

The Fire/EMS Coalition supports Senate Bill 580 as it will be beneficial to the public as it allows nonprofit organizations to maintain our memorials and continue enriching our communities. This bill takes away the hefty monetary burden on nonprofits to maintain memorial properties that are invaluable to so many in our state. The Coalition supports this bill for the benefit of nonprofit organizations and the welfare of the general public of Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike McKay", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Senator Mike McKay
Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland
Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties

Voting Organizations:

Maryland Fire Chief's Association (MFCA)

Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA)

State Fire Marshal (OSFM)

Maryland Fire Rescue Institute (MFRI)

Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System (MIEMMS)

Metro Fire Chief's Association

Professional Firefighters of Maryland

Our Mission Statement

The Maryland Fire/EMS Coalition unites Republicans and Democrats in support of fire/emergency services legislation that benefits all first responders. Becoming a member does not require taking positions on legislation; rather Coalition members are asked to offer support in a way that best benefits fire/emergency services in their respective Legislative Districts.

SB580 testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Robert Phillips

Position: FAV

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

REPRESENTING THE VOLUNTEER FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMS PERSONNEL OF MARYLAND.



Robert P. Phillips

Chairman

Legislative Committee

17 State Circle

Annapolis, MD 21401

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SB 580: Sales and Use Tax - Nonprofit Organizations Maintaining Memorials - Exemption

My name is Robert Phillips, I am the Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland State Firefighters Association (MSFA). The MSFA represents over 25,000 volunteer Fire/EMS and Rescue first responders across the state.

I wish to present testimony in favor of **Senate Bill 580: Sales and Use Tax - Nonprofit Organizations Maintaining Memorials - Exemption**

The MSFA is in full support of this bill. This bill would allow a non-profit 501.c.3 entity to have sales of merchandise that mandates all proceeds to go to the upkeep of the memorial and not have to worry about collecting sales tax, accounting for sales tax or remitting it to the state.

I thank the committee for their time and attention to this important bill and ask that you vote favorable on Senate Bill 580.

I will now be glad to answer any questions, or my contact information is listed above and welcome any further inquiries you might have.

