



February 29, 2024

**House Bill 1038**

**Motor Vehicles - Emergency Medical Services - Registration Surcharge**

**House Environment and Transportation Committee**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1038 - Motor Vehicles - Emergency Medical Services - Registration Surcharge. This Bill will increase the annual surcharge for certain motor vehicle registrations in order to support emergency medical services. Specifically this funding will support the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Medical System, and the Senator William H. Amoss Fire Rescue and Ambulance Fund and the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund, which benefit career and volunteer fire companies.

Our emergency medical technicians and the medical teams at the Shock Trauma Center provide care and support to our residents in their most vulnerable times. Our EMS professionals save lives during traumatic events such as car accidents and gun violence. But these systems have become increasingly strained in recent years, underscoring the need to ensure sustainable funding streams to support EMS activities. Even before the onset of the pandemic, emergency departments and emergency responders saw an increase in our residents using emergency medical services. COVID 19 only exacerbated this situation.

Chapters 341 and 342 of 2023 established the Commission to Study Trauma Center Funding in Maryland to assess the adequacy of trauma center funding across the State, and identify opportunities to improve funding mechanisms. Although we are still waiting on that Commission's final report, this bill takes important next steps to build on that work and ensure our emergency medical system has the resources we need to continue to save lives.

For these reasons, Anne Arundel County respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 1038.