

COMMISSIONERS FOR SOMERSET COUNTY

11916 SOMERSET AVENUE, ROOM 111
PRINCESS ANNE, MARYLAND 21853
TELEPHONE 410-651-0320, FAX 410-651-0366

COMMISSIONERS

CHARLES LAIRD, PRESIDENT
RANDY LAIRD, VICE-PRESIDENT
CRAIG N. MATHIES, SR.
ELDON WILLING
DARRYL K. WEBSTER



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
RALPH D. TAYLOR

DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
ERNEST J. LEATHERBURY, JR.

COUNTY ATTORNEY
KIRK G. SIMPKINS

February 20, 2024

The Honorable Delegate Marc Korman
Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: **House Bill 975 as amended** –Somerset County – Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services as amended – **Letter of Support**

Dear Delegate Korman and Committee Members:

The Board of Commissioners for Somerset County wish to state their support of House Bill 975 – Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services as amended.

The passage of this local bill will allow The Board of Commissioners for Somerset County to enact local laws and adopt other measures necessary to properly manage, direct and regulate our fire, rescue and EMS services in the County and promote the highest quality pre-hospital emergency medical care for every resident and visitor of Somerset County. As a result of the Somerset County EMS Task Force analysis performed last year, strengths and weaknesses of the current process was reviewed. This bill will also give Somerset County the authority to create an entity to administer the county's affairs relating to EMS. In order to successfully implement changes going forward among our current medical service providers, the passage of this bill is imperative.

Additionally, as amended this bill will allow the County to impose an annual fee on improved property to offset the costs of County wide Emergency Services.

Thank you for your consideration, and we therefore powerfully recommend a **favorable report** on HB 975 that will allow Somerset County to more adequately serve Emergency Medical Service of our residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Charles Laird', is written over a white background.

Charles Laird
President

Cc: Senator Carozza