

HB1038 testimony.pdf

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MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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



Robert P. Phillips

Chairman

Legislative Committee

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HB 1038: Motor Vehicles – Emergency Medical Services – Registration Surcharge

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

I wish to present testimony in favor of House Bill 1038: Motor Vehicles – Emergency Medical Services – Registration Surcharge

This bill continues the funding of the MEMSOF which is slated to run out of money during the 4th quarter of FY2025. The monies provided by this fund allow volunteer fire companies to keep their equipment up to date, allows MFRI to continue with their education programs provided to the Maryland Fire/EMS services, Shock Trauma to have the trained personnel ready to respond to emergencies, and MIEMSS to keep the standards current. The major recipient of funding is Maryland State Police Aviation Command. With out their helicopters moving patients to the trauma centers as quickly as they do there would not be as many positive outcomes that we come to have.

I thank the committee for their time and attention to this important bill and ask that you vote favorable on House Bill 1038.

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

Anne Arundel County _FAV_HB1038.pdf

Uploaded by: Steuart Pittman

Position: FAV



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.

House Bill1038-Motor Vehicles - Emergency Medical

Uploaded by: Jennifer Witten

Position: INFO



Date: February 29, 2024

To: Environment and Transportation

Reference: House Bill1038-Motor Vehicles - Emergency Medical Services - Registration Surcharge

Position: Letter of Information

Dear Chairman and Committee Members,

On behalf of Sinai Hospital of Baltimore (“Sinai Hospital”) and LifeBridge Health, we respectfully offer our comments and thoughts on the bill proposed. We understand that the Delegate Stein, introduced this legislation to support those providers who oversee and provide air response. The committee should know that there has been a comprehensive review and several recommendations to support our entire Trauma Response Program. There is no other Trauma Response System like Maryland’s in the nation. To ensure continued critical access to these services we need to fully fund the programs that communities have come to rely on in time of greatest need. There is an existing funding structure that would have minor impact to those paying into the fund with incremental increases as purposed in the legislation.

We need to ensure that the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund is utilized not only to financially support one specific trauma centers, but to facilitate the development and enhancement of the entire trauma system in all areas of Maryland. This includes funding of both rural and urban centers. Without the complete system, one center alone cannot sustain our world-class trauma care. The current bill only supports a small subsection of the trauma providers.

In 2003, the Maryland General Assembly created the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund (‘Trauma Fund’) to financially assist Maryland’s trauma centers. In the subsequent 20 years, the need for this support has significantly grown. The General Assembly passed legislation last year instructing the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) in consultation with other stakeholders to study the structure, criteria, and the funding needs within The Fund. The MHCC concluded that “it is in the public’s best interest to fund a trauma system that is in a perpetual state of readiness for the next injured person” wherever they may be throughout Maryland.

The MHCC recognized that all of Maryland’s trauma centers are under financial stress due to undercompensated costs to maintain trauma readiness twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, three hundred sixty-five days a year. These costs vary relative to level of trauma center designation, patient volume and geographic location. Each designation level and subsequent requirements are established by the American College of Surgeons national guidelines and Maryland COMAR and are held accountable by MIEMSS.

The MHCC and MIEMSS study included several consensus recommendations that seek to modify the existing scope of the Trauma Fund, while allowing flexibility for its administration especially in managing reserve funds to support evolving trauma center needs, raising the already existing assessment on motor

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vehicle registration (\$5 per biennial registration) with a modest increase that supports increased investment in trauma care.

We appreciate the facilitation provided by the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) and MIEMSS working with all State trauma centers in developing several recommendations that strengthen and make trauma funding more accessible statewide. *The distribution criteria should take into consideration the unique needs of the Maryland Trauma System with fair and equitable distribution across all trauma centers.* We thank the MHCC, MIEMSS and Legislative Leaders in working with stakeholders to ensure trauma centers have the needed resources to always be at the ready to deliver critical trauma care to the citizens of Maryland.

For all the above stated reasons, we request a favorable report with consideration for a more equitable distribution among the trauma providers in the system.

For more information, please contact:
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