

HB259 testimony.pdf

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Position: FAV

Maryland State Firefighters Association

Representing The Volunteer Fire, Rescue, And EMS Personnel of Maryland.



Legislative Committee

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HB 259: District Court – Traffic Cases – Surcharges

My name is Robert Phillips, and I am the legislative chair for the Maryland State FireFighters Association (MSFA). I would like to present testimony in favor of: HB 259 District Court – Traffic Cases – Surcharges.

The MSFA is in full support of this bill to increase the surcharge. The monies collected from the surcharges go to several important funds:

- 1) Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship.
- 2) Maryland State Firemen's Association for the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.
- 3) Maryland State Firemen's Association
- 4) Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations Fund
 - a. This fund needs further funding as it has been underfunded for the past 3 years needing revenue from the general fund to stay afloat.
 - b. These funds provide needed revenue to fire companies across the state to “keep the engines on the street” and volunteers in the seats. The MEMSOF supports everything from the training of the volunteers (MFRI), to the setting of certifications and procedures for EMS (MIEMSS), to providing funds for the operation of the Fire Companies (AMOSS 508 funds), to the transport of trauma victims

by helicopter (MSPAC) to Shock Trauma who provides their own unique lifesaving skills.

Thank you for your attention to this very important bill and I ask for your FAVORABLE vote on HB259.

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