

# MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

*Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel  
-a 501(c)3 Organization*



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Legislative Committee

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Health and Government Operations Committee

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Delegate Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair

Room 241 Taylor House Office Building

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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Subject: Opposing HB0319

The Maryland State Firefighters Association is in full support of our partners in the 911 dispatch centers that dispatch law enforcement officers, fire rescue services, emergency medical services, and other public safety services to the scene of an emergency. The nature of work of 911 dispatchers can be very stressful and potentially lead to job related disabilities as defined by existing statutes. All 911 dispatchers should be eligible for the benefits that are available to them in the event of a debilitating illness.

While we understand why HB0316 was introduced, we believe that:

- The language used in the bill to define a “911 Specialist” will cause confusion on a state-wide basis, and;
- A resolution to address the issue is better addressed on a local basis.

Given these reasons, we respectfully request an unfavorable vote on HB0316.

Respectfully submitted,

*Joel C. McCrea*

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MSFA Legislative Committee