

MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

-a 501(c)(3) organization

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel



Legislative Committee

17 State circle

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HB 1221: Public Safety - Short-Term Rental Units - Fire Safety (Jillian and Lindsay Wiener Short-Term Rental Fire Safety Act)

My name is Chief Robert Phillips, and I am the Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland State Firefighters Association (MSFA)

I wish to present testimony in favor of **House Bill 1221: Public Safety - Short-Term Rental Units - Fire Safety (Jillian and Lindsay Wiener Short-Term Rental Fire Safety Act)** as amended.

The MSFA is confident that HB1221 will make “short term rentals” safer in the future. Many times, when responding to an emergency we find people who are short-term renters not knowing what to, who to contact or are at a loss as to what they could have done.

The bill requires that several actions take place to make sure that the rental is as safe as possible before people stay there and the renters are given important information in case of an emergency.

The bill provides for a registry to be created at the local level and maintained annually. With a registry list, the next step is to have a program of annual inspections to make sure that the owners keep their places in compliance with all applicable codes and standards.

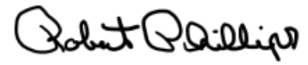
The bill requires that there is to be specific information provided and safety equipment installed. An example of this would be that each place would have an evacuation diagram of the rental showing how to exit the place in case of emergency. In addition to being able to exit there must be a list of emergency phone numbers for the renters to use in case of emergency. Safety equipment to be provided and installed includes a working fire extinguisher available in the rental. All rentals must have working smoke and CO alarms installed that meet the Maryland State and local fire codes.

This bill further requires that the Office of the State Fire Marshal shall establish the minimum qualifications, certifications and license requirements for third party inspectors. This will ensure that the annual inspections will be of the same level of competency across the board as if completed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

The MSFA asks that you return a FAVORABLE vote on **HB 1221**.

Thank you and I would be glad to answer any questions you might have.

Respectfully

Handwritten signature of Robert Phillips in black ink.