

SB0624_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

03/10/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz Frederick,
MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#0624- POSITION: FAVORABLE

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

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0624, **Public Safety - Short-Term Rental Units - Fire Safety (Jillian and Lindsay Wiener Short-Term Rental Fire Safety Act)**

This bill is personally important to me as my daughter-in-law is a firefighter. This bill will protect our first responders and people in short-term rental units in emergency situations. It will implement common sense requirements that will create those protections.

Maryland is tightening fire safety for short-term rentals (STRs) through proposed 2026 legislation (SB0624/SB624) requiring, by October 2026, mandatory interconnected smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, and evacuation plans in all units. This follows high-profile, fatal apartment fires, such as the 2023 Arrive Silver Spring incident, and increased concerns regarding illegal, unpermitted, and unsafe rentals. ¹

The bill will require certain short-term rental units to post certain evacuation diagrams and certain emergency telephone numbers in the unit and to provide certain fire extinguishers and smoke alarms in the unit; requiring a certain short-term rental host to replace a smoke alarm under certain circumstances; requiring certain booking services to notify certain short-term rental hosts about certain fire safety requirements; etc.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0624.

¹ Google AI Search “fires in short term rentals in Maryland”