

Chapter 514

(House Bill 580)

AN ACT concerning

Terminology and Obsolete References – Maryland State Firefighters Association and Related Terms

FOR the purpose of replacing obsolete references to the Maryland State Firemen's Association with references to the Maryland State Firefighters Association; replacing related terminology; and generally relating to references to the Maryland State Firefighters Association and related terminology.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Section 7–301(f)(3)(iii)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Education
Section 13–511(b)(1)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Education
Section 13–511(b)(2)(vi) and 18–602
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health – General
Section 18–213
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Labor and Employment
Section 3–213(a)(2)(iv)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2016 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Public Safety
Section 7–201, 7–202, 7–203, 8–103(b)(4)(i) and (c)(1) and (3)(i), and 8–201(b)

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Public Safety
Section 8–201(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Tax – General
Section 10–208(i–1)(5)(ii)3. and (7)(ii)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 16–102(b)(2)(i) and 21–106(c)(3)(i)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

7–301.

(f) (3) (iii) An amount annually as set forth in the State budget shall be distributed to the Maryland State [Firemen’s] **FIREFIGHTERS** Association for the Widows’ and Orphans’ Fund.

Article – Education

13–511.

(b) (1) The Advisory Council consists of 31 members. The members shall be appointed by the Board from a list of three qualified nominees submitted to the Board by their respective organizations or associations represented on the Council. The appointments by the Board shall be subject to the approval of the Governor.

(2) Of the 31 members:

(vi) One shall be a representative of the Maryland State [Firemen’s] **FIREFIGHTERS** Association;

18-602.

(a) There is a program of scholarships for children of volunteer **[fire fighters] FIREFIGHTERS** or volunteer ambulance or rescue squad members who died or were disabled by an accident resulting from:

(1) Performing any duties necessary to the operation or maintenance of the fire company; or

(2) Actively participating in the ambulance or rescue squad work of an incorporated volunteer fire company or volunteer ambulance or rescue squad in the State.

(b) The recipient of a scholarship under this section shall be a graduate of an accredited high school.

(c) The Board of Trustees of the Maryland State **[Firemen's] FIREFIGHTERS** Association, in its discretion, shall:

(1) Determine the amount of each award; and

(2) Select the recipient of each award.

(d) The Maryland State **[Firemen's] FIREFIGHTERS** Association shall provide the funds for these awards.

Article – Health – General

18-213.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Contagious disease or virus” means:

(i) Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV);

(ii) Meningococcal meningitis;

(iii) Tuberculosis;

(iv) Mononucleosis;

(v) Any form of viral hepatitis, including but not limited to hepatitis A, B, C, D, E, F, and G;

(vi) Diphtheria;

- (vii) Plague;
- (viii) Hemorrhagic fevers; or
- (ix) Rabies.

(3) “Correctional institution” means a place of detention or correctional confinement operated by or for the State or a local government.

(4) (i) “Correctional officer” means a member of a correctional unit who is charged with and actually performs those duties that relate to the investigation, care, custody, control, or supervision of persons confined to places of incarceration.

(ii) “Correctional officer” includes any sheriff, warden, superintendent, or any other person having an equivalent title.

(5) “Law enforcement officer” means any person who, in an official capacity, is authorized by law to make arrests and who is a member of one of the following law enforcement agencies:

- (i) The Department of State Police;
- (ii) The Baltimore City Police Department;
- (iii) The police department, bureau, or force of any county;
- (iv) The police department, bureau, or force of any incorporated city or town;
- (v) The office of the sheriff of any county;
- (vi) The police department, bureau, or force of any bicounty agency or constituent institution of the University System of Maryland, Morgan State University, St. Mary’s College, or of any institution under the jurisdiction of the Maryland Higher Education Commission;
- (vii) The Maryland Transit Administration police force of the Department of Transportation, the Maryland Transportation Authority Police Force, and the Maryland Port Administration police force of the Department of Transportation;
- (viii) The law enforcement officers of the Department of Natural Resources;
- (ix) The Field Enforcement Bureau of the Comptroller’s Office;

(x) The Field Enforcement Division of the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission;

(xi) The Crofton Police Department;

(xii) The Intelligence and Investigative Division of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; or

(xiii) The Ocean Pines Police Department.

(6) “Medical care facility” means a hospital as defined in § 19–301 of this article or a health care facility of a correctional institution.

(b) While treating or transporting an ill or injured patient to a medical care facility or while acting in the performance of duty, if a paid or volunteer [fire fighter] **FIREFIGHTER**, emergency medical technician, or rescue [squadman] **SQUAD MEMBER** comes into contact with a patient who is subsequently diagnosed as having a contagious disease or virus, as a result of information obtained in conjunction with the services provided during the visit to the facility, the attending physician, medical examiner, a designee of the medical care facility who receives the patient, the Chief Medical Examiner, or the Chief Medical Examiner’s designee shall notify the [fire fighter] **FIREFIGHTER**, emergency medical technician, or rescue [squadman] **SQUAD MEMBER**, and the employer or employer’s designee of the individual’s possible exposure to the contagious disease or virus.

(c) If, while treating or transporting an ill or injured patient to a medical care facility or while acting in the performance of duty, a law enforcement officer comes into contact with a patient who is subsequently diagnosed, as a result of information obtained in conjunction with the services provided during the visit to the facility, as having a contagious disease or virus, the attending physician, medical examiner, a designee of the medical care facility who receives the patient, the Chief Medical Examiner or the Chief Medical Examiner’s designee shall notify the law enforcement officer and the officer’s employer or employer’s designee of the officer’s possible exposure to the contagious disease or virus.

(d) If, while treating or transporting an ill or injured incarcerated individual to a medical care facility or while acting in the performance of duty, a correctional officer comes into contact with an incarcerated individual who is subsequently diagnosed, as a result of information obtained in conjunction with the services provided during the visit to the facility, as having a contagious disease or virus, the attending physician, medical examiner, a designee of the medical care facility that receives the incarcerated individual, the Chief Medical Examiner, or the Chief Medical Examiner’s designee shall notify the correctional officer and the correctional officer’s correctional institution or the correctional institution’s designee of the officer’s possible exposure to the contagious disease or virus.

(e) The notification required under subsection (b), (c), or (d) of this section shall:

(1) Be made within 48 hours, or sooner, of confirmation of the patient's diagnosis;

(2) Include subsequent written confirmation of possible exposure to the contagious disease or virus;

(3) Be conducted in a manner that will protect the confidentiality of the patient; and

(4) To the extent possible, be conducted in a manner that will protect the confidentiality of the [fire fighter] **FIREFIGHTER**, emergency medical technician, rescue [squadman] **SQUAD MEMBER**, law enforcement officer, or correctional officer.

(f) The written confirmation required under subsection (e)(2) of this section shall constitute compliance with this section.

(g) Each medical care facility shall develop written procedures for the implementation of this section, and, upon request, make copies available to the local fire authority, the local fire authority's designee, the local law enforcement authority, the local law enforcement authority's designee, the correctional officer, or the correctional institution's designee having jurisdiction.

(h) A medical care facility, physician, Chief Medical Examiner, or the Chief Medical Examiner's designee acting in good faith to provide notification in accordance with this section may not be liable in any cause of action related to the breach of patient confidentiality.

(i) A medical care facility, physician, Chief Medical Examiner, or the Chief Medical Examiner's designee acting in good faith to provide notification in accordance with this section may not be liable in any cause of action for:

(1) The failure to give the required notice, if the [fire fighter] **FIREFIGHTER**, emergency medical technician, rescue [squadman] **SQUAD MEMBER**, law enforcement officer, or correctional officer fails to properly initiate the notification procedures developed by the health care facility under subsection (g) of this section; or

(2) The failure of the employer or employer's designee to subsequently notify the [fire fighter] **FIREFIGHTER**, emergency medical technician, rescue [squadman] **SQUAD MEMBER**, law enforcement officer, or correctional officer of the possible exposure to a contagious disease or virus.

(j) A [fire fighter] **FIREFIGHTER**, emergency medical technician, rescue [squadman] **SQUAD MEMBER**, law enforcement officer, or correctional officer shall receive

from their employers or local governmental bodies, at the expense of the employer or local governmental body, as part of their training, education on:

(1) (i) The routes of transmission of HIV and hepatitis B virus; and

(ii) The routes by which a [fire fighter] **FIREFIGHTER**, emergency medical technician, rescue [squadman] **SQUAD MEMBER**, law enforcement officer, or correctional officer may be exposed to HIV and hepatitis B virus; and

(2) The current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for preventing prehospital exposure to HIV and hepatitis B while rendering emergency medical care.

(k) A [fire fighter] **FIREFIGHTER**, emergency medical technician, rescue [squadman] **SQUAD MEMBER**, law enforcement officer, or correctional officer shall receive from their employers, associations, or local governmental bodies, at the employers', associations', or local governmental bodies' expense, equipment recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to protect a [fire fighter] **FIREFIGHTER**, emergency medical technician, rescue [squadman] **SQUAD MEMBER**, law enforcement officer, or correctional officer from exposure to HIV and hepatitis B while rendering emergency medical care.

(l) (1) The fire department, law enforcement agency, and all other agencies or organizations employing a [fire fighter] **FIREFIGHTER**, emergency medical technician, rescue [squadman] **SQUAD MEMBER**, law enforcement officer, or correctional officer shall develop written procedures for the implementation of this section.

(2) On request, copies of the procedures developed in this subsection shall be made available to employees, employee unions, volunteer associations, and the Secretary.

(m) A person under this section may not refuse to treat or transport an individual because the individual is HIV positive.

Article – Labor and Employment

3–213.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, a minor may not be employed or allowed to work:

(2) in, about, or in connection with:

(iv) an engineer, [fireman] **FIREFIGHTER**, or pilot on a vessel that is engaged in commerce; or

Article – Public Safety

7–201.

In Part I of this subtitle, “Board” means the Board of Trustees of the Maryland State [Firemen’s] **FIREFIGHTERS** Association.

7–202.

(a) (1) A member of a volunteer fire company or volunteer rescue squad is eligible for disability benefits from the Maryland State [Firemen’s] **FIREFIGHTERS** Association if:

(i) the member’s fire company or rescue squad recommends that the member receive benefits; and

(ii) the member is permanently or temporarily disabled:

1. as a direct result of actively participating in fighting a fire;

2. while going to or from a fire;

3. while performing other duties necessary to the operation or maintenance of the fire company;

4. while actively participating in the emergency medical services unit, or rescue work of a volunteer advanced life support unit or a volunteer fire, ambulance, or rescue company located in the State; or

5. while providing emergency or rescue assistance, whether acting alone or at the direction of or with a fire, ambulance, or rescue company or advanced life support unit.

(2) A benefit under this section shall be paid:

(i) regardless of the district in which the beneficiary was disabled;
or

(ii) regardless of whether the beneficiary was disabled in this State, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, or West Virginia.

(b) The Board shall pay a benefit under this section from the treasury of the Maryland State [Firemen’s] **FIREFIGHTERS** Association in the amount and in the manner that the Board determines until the beneficiary is no longer disabled.

(c) The secretary of the Board shall add the name of each beneficiary under this section to the Disabled **[Firemen's] FIREFIGHTER'S** and Rescue **[Squadmen's] SQUAD PERSON'S** List.

7-203.

(a) (1) The Board shall pay death benefits under this section if a member of a volunteer fire company or member of a volunteer rescue squad dies:

(i) as a direct result of actively participating in fighting a fire;

(ii) while going to or from a fire;

(iii) while performing other duties necessary to the operation or maintenance of the fire company;

(iv) while actively participating in the ambulance, advanced life support, or rescue work of a volunteer advanced life support unit or volunteer fire, ambulance, or rescue company located in the State; or

(v) while providing emergency or rescue assistance, whether acting alone or at the direction of or with a fire, ambulance, or rescue company or advanced life support unit.

(2) A benefit under this subsection shall be paid:

(i) regardless of the district in which the decedent died; or

(ii) regardless of whether the decedent died in this State, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, or West Virginia.

(b) (1) The Board shall pay a benefit under this section from the treasury of the Maryland State **[Firemen's] FIREFIGHTERS** Association in the amount that the Board determines, but not less than \$2,000.

(2) The Board shall pay a benefit under this subsection:

(i) to the decedent's surviving spouse or dependent child;

(ii) if no individual is eligible under item (i) of this paragraph, to the decedent's surviving dependent parent;

(iii) if no individual is eligible under item (i) or (ii) of this paragraph, to each surviving child of the decedent in equal shares;

(iv) if no individual is eligible under item (i), (ii), or (iii) of this paragraph, to the decedent's surviving parent; or

(v) if no individual is eligible under item (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) of this paragraph, to each surviving sister, brother, or grandparent of the decedent in equal shares.

(c) (1) If there is a surviving spouse or dependent child:

(i) until the surviving spouse remarries, the surviving spouse is entitled to receive a pension from the Maryland State [Firemen's] **FIREFIGHTERS** Association; and

(ii) until the dependent child becomes an adult, each dependent child is entitled to receive a pension from the Maryland State [Firemen's] **FIREFIGHTERS** Association.

(2) The Board shall pay a benefit under this subsection from the treasury of the Maryland State [Firemen's] **FIREFIGHTERS** Association in the amount, at the times, and in the installments that the Board determines.

(3) The secretary of the Board shall add the name of each beneficiary under this subsection to the Disabled [Firemen's] **FIREFIGHTER'S** and Rescue [Squadmen's] **SQUAD PERSON'S** List.

8–103.

(b) (4) In determining need under this subsection, the county shall consider:

(i) the failure to meet minimum standards established by the county or the Maryland State [Firemen's] **FIREFIGHTERS** Association;

(c) (1) Subject to paragraph (6) of this subsection, each county shall distribute the money provided under this subtitle on the basis of need to fire, rescue, and ambulance companies, departments, or stations in the county, including companies, departments, or stations:

(i) located in municipal corporations; or

(ii) located outside the State if the company, department, or station:

1. has been a member of the Maryland State [Firemen's] **FIREFIGHTERS** Association for at least the past 10 years; and

2. has a first due response area in the State.

(3) In determining need under this subsection, the county shall consider:

(i) the failure to meet minimum standards established by the county or the Maryland State [Firemen's] **FIREFIGHTERS** Association;

8–201.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) “Association” means the Maryland State [Firemen's] **FIREFIGHTERS** Association.

Article – Tax – General

10–208.

(i–1) (5) (ii) Each fire, rescue, or emergency medical services organization or auxiliary organization shall:

3. provide a report that includes the names, Social Security numbers, and points earned by those members qualifying for the subtraction modification under this subsection to the Maryland State [Firemen's] **FIREFIGHTERS** Association by May 1 of the following year.

(7) (ii) On or before October 1 of each year, the Maryland State [Firemen's] **FIREFIGHTERS** Association shall submit to the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the Office of the Comptroller a report stating the participation in the point system by the various local subdivisions with the names and Social Security numbers of individuals who qualified for the subtraction modification under this subsection for the preceding taxable year.

Article – Transportation

16–102.

(b) (2) The Administration shall adopt the regulations required under this subsection in consultation with:

(i) The Maryland [Firemen's] **FIREFIGHTERS** Association;

21–106.

(c) (3) (i) The driver of an emergency vehicle may not use flashing lights or a bell, siren, or exhaust whistle while returning from an emergency call, fire alarm, or

motorcade or escort, except that fire apparatus carrying standing **[firemen]** **FIREFIGHTERS** may use flashing lights that are visible only to the rear.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the publisher of the Annotated Code of Maryland, in consultation with and subject to the approval of the Department of Legislative Services, shall correct, with no further action required by the General Assembly, cross–references and terminology rendered incorrect by this Act. The publisher shall adequately describe any correction made in an editor’s note following the section affected.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2025.