

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 580

(Delegate Hutchinson, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Energy, and the Environment

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

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This bill alters terminology throughout the Annotated Code of Maryland so that (1) references to the Maryland State *Firemen's* Association are replaced with the Maryland State *Firefighters* Association, reflecting a recent name change; (2) references to the Disabled *Firemen's* and Rescue *Squadmen's* List are replaced with the Disabled *Firefighter's* and Rescue *Squad Person's* List; (3) references to “fireman” or “firemen” are replaced with “firefighter” or “firefighters;” and (4) references to “squadman” are replaced with “squad member.” **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. The bill’s changes are technical in nature and do not affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Generally, the Annotated Code of Maryland does not use gender-neutral language to refer to firemen and squadmen.

**Additional Comments:** The Maryland State Firefighters Association is a private, not-for-profit entity whose mission is to serve, promote, advocate, and represent the interest of the volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical services of Maryland. On

June 18, 2024, the association membership [voted](#) to change its name from the Maryland State Firemen's Association to the Maryland State *Firefighters* Association.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 164 (Senator Kagan) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Firefighters Association; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 4, 2025  
js/lgc Third Reader - March 13, 2025

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