



BILL: House Bill 810
TITLE: Workers' Compensation – Washington County – Volunteer Company – Fire and Rescue Academy Student
HEARING DATE: March 3, 2020
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Economic Matters Committee
CONTACT: Mr. Anthony J. Trotta, Chief Legal Counsel (301-766-2946)
Mrs. Ardath Cade, Legislative Representative (410-991-9383)

The Washington County Board of Education supports House Bill 810.

Prior to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future establishing career and college readiness standards, Washington County Public Schools' Fire and Rescue Academy has been on the cutting edge (since 1998) of providing students with an opportunity to be career ready upon graduation. There are currently nineteen (19) students enrolled in the program.

The Fire and Rescue Academy Program is sponsored by the University of Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI), and the Washington County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association. Successful completion of the program can offer up to sixteen (16) college credits from the University of Maryland through ACES towards a fire science or emergency management degree. Cadets have the opportunity of becoming certified Maryland Emergency Medical Technicians, Firefighters I and II, Hazardous Materials Operators, or Rescue Technicians for example. This program affords cadets the unique opportunity to meet all pre-requisites for employment by any career fire department.

To be admitted to the Fire and Rescue Academy Program, cadets are required to be a member of a volunteer fire company in Washington County. Currently, if a cadet is injured while serving in that capacity his/her injury would not be covered under Washington County government's workers' compensation program.

House Bill 810 will allow for any cadet, who is at least 15 years old and a member of a local volunteer fire company, to be a covered employee under Washington County government's workers' compensation program.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 810.

Thank you.

cc: Washington County Board of Education Members
Washington County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly
Board of County Commissioners of Washington County
Kirk Downey, Esquire, Acting County Administrator
Dr. Boyd J. Michael, III, Superintendent
Dr. April Bishop, Deputy Superintendent

Dr. Peggy Pugh, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Jeffrey Proulx, Chief Operating Officer
Mr. John Martirano, Deputy Legal Counsel
Mr. Cody Pine, Supervisor of Career and Technology Education