

Jeffrey A. Cline, *President*  
Terry L. Baker, *Vice President*  
Krista L. Hart, *Clerk*



Wayne K. Keefer  
Cort F. Meinelschmidt  
Randall E. Wagner

100 West Washington Street, Suite 1101 | Hagerstown, MD 21740-4735 | P: 240.313.2200 | F: 240.313.2201  
WWW.WASHCO-MD.NET

February 11, 2020

Delegate Dereck E. Davis, Chair  
Economic Matters Committee  
Room 231  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support of HB 810; Workers' Compensation – Washington County – Volunteer Company – Fire and Rescue Academy Student

Dear Delegate Davis:

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland, by a vote of 4-0, supports House Bill 810. It would provide for Workers Compensation coverage for members of volunteer fire and rescue companies who are at least 15 years old and are enrolled in the Washington County Fire and Rescue Academy Program, which is operated by the Washington County Board of Education.

The Fire and Rescue Academy is operated at the Washington County Technical High School and is sponsored by the University of Maryland. It teaches firefighting and emergency medical technology to High School Students. Students who elect to serve in volunteer companies in our County while they are enrolled at the Academy are following and supporting a long tradition of volunteerism, preparing to assist others who are in crisis, and providing a precious service to our community. While they are receiving training that will benefit them personally and are guided by experienced personnel who are fostering their safety, they are engaging in adult activities that entail risk of personal injury. It is important that they be covered by Workers Compensation insurance to mitigate those risks while they serve their community.

For the foregoing reasons, the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County respectfully urges the Committee to enact HB 810.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY:   
Jeffrey A. Cline, President