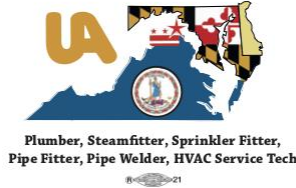


MAPT_ASCHER_FAV_SB746

Uploaded by: Ascher, Jason

Position: FAV

Mid Atlantic Pipe Trades Association



Maryland Senate – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

TO: Senator Paul Pinsky, Chair; Senator Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair; and Member of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

FROM: Jason Ascher, Political Director – Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

Support SB 746 – State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and it's over seven thousand members from United Association Locals across the state, I ask that you Support SB 746.

Safety, whether at home or in the workplace is always of the utmost importance. When it comes to fire sprinklers, ensuring that they are installed properly and functioning properly needs to be a priority. These systems not only protect the residents but they protect the first responders.

These essential safety systems need to be in all homes, whether it be 100 families, or 1 family. Personally, the building I live in has had 3 fires in the 2 years I have lived there and each time the sprinkler system extinguished it quickly, protecting the resident and kept damage to isolated area.

As an organization that represents men and woman who proudly install and maintain fire sprinkler systems, we believe that any regulation to ensure that these system function properly is a must. The end goal, is safety, and these systems working properly keep people safe.

For the reasons listed above, I ask that you Support SB 746 with a favorable report.

Sincerely,
Jason Ascher
Political Director
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association
7050 Oakland Mills Road, Suite 180
Columbia, MD 21046

Testimony on Senate Bill 746 John Bender FRCE

Uploaded by: BENDER, JOHN

Position: FAV

Senate Bill 746 – Public Safety – State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement

Testimony of John F. Bender, representing the First Responder Center of Excellence, March 5, 2020

Good afternoon Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chairman Kagan and members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee.

My name is John Bender and I am here today representing the First Responder Center of Excellence, a Maryland non-profit corporation committed to promoting quality educational awareness and research to reduce physical, emotional, and psychological health and wellness issues for first responders.

I am Vice President and a past Battalion Chief of the Aberdeen *Volunteer* Fire Department, Inc. in Harford County with over 58 years of volunteer service. I am a graduate of the University of Maryland, A. James Clark School of Engineering with a B.S. degree in Fire Protection Engineering. I recently retired with 44 years as a registered and licensed Professional Engineer in Fire Protection with the Factory Mutual Engineering Division in Philadelphia and the Office of State Fire Marshal of Maryland, and Underwriter's Laboratory. For over 35 of those years I was with the Office of State Fire Marshal of Maryland, including over 27 years as the Chief Fire Protection Engineer.

I have also served as a past President of the International Association of Fire Marshals, served on numerous technical

committees of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and was twice elected to serve on the prestigious NFPA Standards Council that oversees the development of all NFPA Codes and Standards. NFPA is a respected world renowned training and research organization and developer of codes and standards that govern fire and life safety technical matters as well as fire service operations, training and equipment. Suffice it to say, I am very familiar with fire sprinkler systems in general and the technical and legislative history of residential fire sprinkler systems in particular having served on numerous State and National committees devoted to this issue.

I will not repeat testimony already presented by State Fire Marshal Brian Geraci and others, but my testimony is very brief: This proposed legislation is common sense, effective and efficient legislation. It places enforcement responsibility of residential fire sprinkler systems of one- and two-family dwelling units where it should have been all along - in the hands of the State Fire Marshal. The Office of State Fire Marshal of Maryland is an agency that has the expertise, experience, resources, interest, respect and demonstrated effectiveness in administering the enforcement of such provisions on a consistent state-wide basis in close cooperation with other State and local fire and building departments and other regulatory agencies. The State Fire Marshal, in conjunction with the State Fire Prevention Commission, already has authority by State statute to promulgate the rules and regulations dealing with the technical requirements and

enforcement aspects of both commercial and multi-family residential fire sprinkler systems, as well as the administrative responsibilities of licensing fire sprinkler contractors, so it only makes good common sense to include the actual enforcement of fire sprinkler systems for one- and two-family dwellings as well.

This legislation will help ensure the proper, effective, efficient and consistent enforcement of residential fire sprinkler systems throughout the State of Maryland to save the lives of families, especially young children, the elderly and others who have mobility or cognitive issues that impair or prevent their ability to escape in a timely fashion. Just as important are the lives of firefighters and other first responders, no matter if they are career or volunteer, who are expected to respond to fires in these structures at all hours of the day and night at great risk of their lives and the security of their families. House fires are dangerous and such a common, tragic and devastating event for families and communities. Residential fire sprinkler systems have a proven record to prevent such tragedies. This legislation will help ensure the proper enforcement, installation and operation of these systems. We should all be proud, and thankful, that the State of Maryland is a recognized leader in this matter. Let's keep Maryland moving forward with this common sense legislation!

On behalf of the First Responder Center of Excellence and the dedicated firefighters and other first responders of this State,

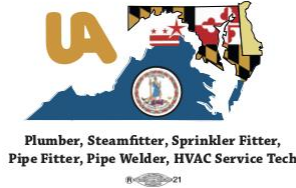
both career and volunteer, I respectfully urge you to give Senate Bill 746 a favorable report. Thank You!

UA_BROADRICK_FAV_SB746

Uploaded by: Broadrick, Shawn

Position: FAV

Mid Atlantic Pipe Trades Association



Maryland Senate – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

TO: Senator Paul Pinsky, Chair; Senator Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair; and Member of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

FROM: Shawn Broadrick – International Representative, United Association (Parent organization to Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades)

Support SB 746 – State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement

My name is Shawn Broadrick I am a fire sprinkler fitter installer of 35 years. I was trained and graduated a five-year apprenticeship that has given me the knowledge and skill to install fire sprinklers in structures from single family dwellings to nuclear power plants.

For years, fire sprinkler codes and standards have been in building codes. The mandatory installation of fire sprinklers in all new single and multifamily dwellings dramatically increases fire safety in the State of Maryland. It is proven that firefighter injuries dropped and residential fire sprinkler systems were effective in controlling a fire 96% of the time until the fire fighters arrive with many instances actually extinguishing the fire.

If fire sprinklers are so effective at saving lives and reducing property damage, “why do we need compliance to make sure the sprinkler systems are installed to code and standards by the fire marshal?” While the number of home fires have dropped, the increasing use of lightweight construction materials in the last 25 years has created additional risk during a fire. Structures using lighter materials burn quicker, fails faster and collapses quicker. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) states that the average window to escape a fire in a structure made with traditional construction materials is about 15 minutes. However, the escape drops to only 2 minutes in a home using light weight construction materials.

Residential fire sprinklers slow down the progress of the fire and allows extra time for families to get out and for firefighters to fight the fire effectively. Much like commercial fire sprinkler systems, residential sprinklers are incredibly effective at saving lives and property if they are installed correctly and inspected properly.

Giving the fire marshal the jurisdiction of authority over the standard and code compliance provides the best possible protection against loss of life and property.

Sincerely,
Shawn Broadrick
International Representative
United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters
3 Park Place
Annapolis, MD 21401

BaltimoreCounty_FAV_SB0746

Uploaded by: Conner, Charles

Position: FAV



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

CHARLES R. CONNER III, ESQ.
Chief Legislative Officer

KIMBERLY S. ROUTSON
Deputy Legislative Officer

JOEL N. BELLER
Assistant Legislative Officer

BILL NO.: **SB 746**

TITLE: State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement

SPONSOR: Senator Beidle

COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 5, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 746 – State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement. This bill requires the State Fire Marshal to enforce any requirements relating to the installation of automatic sprinkler systems in new one- and two-family dwellings.

According to the Department of Legislative Services, SB 746 codifies an existing practice, but it also serves as a reminder of the importance of fire safety and the role played by the State Fire Marshal and local Fire Marshals. Properly installed and inspected sprinkler systems are critical to protecting property and saving the lives of residents and public safety personnel. Because fire sprinkler systems react so quickly, they can dramatically reduce the heat, flames and smoke produced in a fire. Codifying the Fire Marshal’s ability to enforce related regulations will ensure that new family dwellings will continue to be built with safety and security in mind.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 746. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

CHARLES R. CONNER III, ESQ.
Chief Legislative Officer

KIMBERLY S. ROUTSON
Deputy Legislative Officer

JOEL N. BELLER
Assistant Legislative Officer

BILL NO.: **SB 746**

TITLE: State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement

SPONSOR: Senator Beidle

COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 5, 2020

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JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

CHARLES R. CONNER III, ESQ.
Chief Legislative Officer

KIMBERLY S. ROUTSON
Deputy Legislative Officer

JOEL N. BELLER
Assistant Legislative Officer

BILL NO.: **SB 746**

TITLE: State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement

SPONSOR: Senator Beidle

COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 5, 2020

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PG Cty Executive_SUPPORT_SB746

Uploaded by: County Executive, Prince Georges

Position: FAV



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: Senate Bill 746 - Public Safety - State Fire Marshal - Sprinkler Systems Enforcement

SPONSOR: Senator Beidle

HEARING DATE: March 5, 2020

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 746 - Public Safety - State Fire Marshal - Sprinkler Systems Enforcement**, which provides authority to the State Fire Marshal to enforce residential sprinkler laws relating to new home construction.

The Prince George's County Fire and Emergency Medical Services (Fire/EMS) Department serves a population of nearly one million residents in an area that represents over five hundred square miles. The major metropolitan department responds to over 152,000 calls for emergency service annually, with over 300,000 unit responses per year to provide public safety resources to the residents and visitors of Prince George's County.

Prince George's County has legally required residential sprinkler systems to be installed in new homes for decades. For nearly 30 years, Prince George's County has not suffered a life loss in a residential house fire where fully functional sprinkler system was installed. During this same time-period, Prince George's County has averaged nearly 10 fire fatalities per year in non-sprinklered residential home fires. This statistic alone must be a deciding factor in this testimony for the safety value of requiring residential sprinkler systems.

The Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department has advocated for several years with our public safety partners to require sprinkler systems in new residential construction statewide. In their efforts to ensure life safety relating to fire sprinkler installation, they have stood with the Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office, the Maryland State Fireman's Association, the National Fallen Firefighter's Foundation, and the National Fire Sprinkler Association.

HB 823 will reassign this legal authority of enforcement to the Maryland State Fire Marshal. The Maryland State Fire Marshal is the subject matter expert relating to fire sprinklers and fire safety laws. The responsibility of fire sprinkler installation enforcement must be granted to the State Fire Marshal

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 746** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.

Fire Marshal Committee Support for SB0746-M.Custer

Uploaded by: CUSTER, SCOTT

Position: FAV



Maryland Fire Marshals Committee

Jim Reilly, Chairperson
(301)583-1838
jvreilly@co.pg.md.us

Kenny Poole, Vice Chairperson
(301) 600-4633
Kpoole1@frederickcountymd.gov

Roberta Kelly, Secretary
(410) 313-6040
rkelly@howardcountymd.gov

February 23, 2020

Senator Beidle
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Miller Senate Office Building
Room 2
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB0746 Public Safety – State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement

Dear Senator Beidle,

The Maryland Metro Chiefs Fire Marshal Committee is made up of representatives from fire marshal offices from across the State. We work in collaboration with the Office of the Maryland State Fire Marshal to advocate for strong and effective fire prevention and life safety measures to protect the citizens of the State of Maryland.

We are writing you today to offer our emphatic support for SB0746 Public Safety – State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement. We believe the proposed legislation is needed to ensure that residential fire sprinklers, which have saved numerous lives in the State of Maryland, are installed in every new residential dwelling constructed in the State without exception.

Residential fire sprinklers can be installed at a modest cost and have been proven effective. During a recent 7 year period in Prince George's County, there were more than 200 fires in homes protected by residential fire sprinklers. There were 466 people present when these fires occurred. None of them perished. During this same period in the county, 53 people died in residential fires where the residence was not protected by a fire sprinkler system.

Fires in modern dwellings grow quickly. It takes time for the fire department to respond and apply water to a fire. Residential fire sprinklers provide a proven early intervention that allows residents to escape a fire.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal must have the authority to enforce the residential fire sprinkler requirement across the State. The safety and protection intended by Maryland State Law regarding fire sprinklers should extend to all residents without amendment or exemption.

We concur with the testimony offered by the Maryland State Fire Marshal and strongly endorse this legislation. Thank you for your consideration and we respectfully ask the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee for a favorable report for SB0746.

Sincerely,

James V. Reilly
Chairman
Metro Chiefs Fire Marshal Committee

Support Testimony_SB746_John August Denhardt (1)

Uploaded by: DENHARDT, JOHN

Position: FAV



American Fire Sprinkler Association

12750 Merit Drive, Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75251

Tele: 214.349.5965

Fax: 214.343.8898

www.firesprinkler.org

SUPPORT TESTIMONY – SB746 – JOHN AUGUST DENHARDT SPRINKLER SYSTEMS ENFORCEMENT

TESTIMONY OF

John August Denhardt, P.E.

American Fire Sprinkler Association

February 28, 2020

Good afternoon Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chairman Kagan and members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee. I am John Denhardt, the Vice President of Engineering and Technical Services for the American Fire Sprinkler Association, I am a Professional Engineer registered in the State of Maryland and a lifelong resident of this great State. I am testifying today in favor of House Bill 746. I would like to thank Vice Chairman Stein for bringing this legislation to you today.

Since 2015, the State of Maryland has required residential fire sprinklers in all new residential occupancies. When this requirement was passed, there were numerous construction trade-offs allowed because fire sprinklers were installed. Thus, the residential building code assumes fire sprinkler protection is being provided. In my opinion, if fire sprinkler protection is not installed as required by the residential building code, the property being built is not safe for human occupancy and is a danger for responding fire departments.

The residential construction standards were relaxed because fire sprinklers were required. The residential building code does not give construction standards for a non-sprinklered residential building. Again, the building code assumes fire sprinklers are being installed. Lightweight construction materials, minimized fire ratings, and other trade-offs are allowed. Without fire sprinkler protection, these residential buildings are a danger to the occupants and the responding fire department personnel.

I am concerned that where the current fire sprinkler law is not being enforced, the local building code authority is not requiring additional construction features to minimize the lack of fire sprinkler protection. This is most likely because the individuals in charge do not know the issues and the underlying trade-offs that were allowed. It is imperative that fire sprinkler protection be provided as required by the residential building code.

In closing, a fire protection system is designed to save lives. Fire sprinkler systems must be installed in residential occupancies to protect building occupants and firefighters. House Bill 746 will ensure the State of Maryland's Fire Marshal's office can enforce the fire sprinkler requirement. I would ask the committee to give this legislation a favorable report. Thank you.

SUPPORT TESTIMONY_SB746_MICHAEL_FAUST

Uploaded by: FAUST, MICHAEL

Position: FAV



The mission of the Maryland State Firemen's Association is to Serve, Promote, Advocate and Represent the interests of the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services of Maryland.

February 27, 2020

Chairman Pinsky

Vice Chairman Kagan

SUPPORT OF SB 746- STATE FIRE MARSHAL- SPRINKLER SYSTEMS ENFORCEMENT

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chairman Kagan, and members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee,

My name is Michael R Faust and I am the current President of the Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA) and a 34-year veteran of the fire, rescue, and EMS family in Queen Anne's County, Maryland. Today I'm here representing 360+ member companies and more than 30,000 volunteer members in SUPPORT of SB 746- State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement.

As I think you will agree fire protection and life safety are among the most important services we provide the citizens of Maryland, members of the MSFA, and other first responders in Maryland as well as those responding from our neighboring States.

Maryland was one of the first to adopt sprinkler legislation which is an extremely important lifesaving law. Equally as important is the enforcement of the law. We need the Office of the State Fire Marshal to ensure this law is followed to protect those mentioned above.

Although I mentioned this law protects all first responders my focus, and that of the MSFA, is our State's volunteers. These members provide services to support and protect their communities while many maintain a full-time career to support their families. They

volunteer because they chose to give back to their friends and neighbors and we need to do all we can to protect them.

For these and many other reasons, we **SUPPORT** SB 746- State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to a favorable report from the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee.

I will be glad to answer any questions that you may have. The best way to reach me is on my cell at (443) 262-6896. I did attend the hearing in House, and I will be testifying at the Senate hearing to show my support of this bill on March 5, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael R. Faust". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a stylized 'F'.

Michael R. Faust
President, MSFA

AIAMD SB746 Letter of Support

Uploaded by: Frank, Larry

Position: FAV



AIA
Maryland

Promoting Maryland Architecture Since 1965

4 March 2020

The Honorable Paul Pinsky
Chair of the Education Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support for SB 746
State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement

Dear Chairman Pinsky and members of the Education Health and Environmental Affairs Committee:

AIA Maryland represents over 2,000 architects in the state of Maryland and advocates for the profession and the quality of the built environment for the residents and citizens of the state. We are writing to voice AIA Maryland's support of the Senate Bill 746, to require enforcement of sprinkler requirements in residential construction by the State Fire Marshal.

We are aware that sprinkler systems for homes represents increased requirements for water service that can be more burdensome in some locations and jurisdictions. Further we understand that this may impact the cost to construct a home, however we feel the protection for life safety outweigh and are well worth the expense.

We ask that the committee support this bill to require the State Fire Marshal to enforce requirements relating to the installation of automatic sprinkler systems in new one- and two-family dwellings throughout the state. AIA Maryland, and its membership, consistently works to maintain and improve the quality of Maryland's built environment, including our efforts that maintain and enhance public health, safety, and welfare. We recognize the efforts our state's fire safety professionals have similarly made and we support those efforts.

AIA Maryland cares deeply about the quality of Maryland's built environment and the health, safety and welfare of its residents. We encourage you to vote in favor of this legislation and encourage Maryland's commitment to the protection of life safety. Thank you for your consideration and your vote.

Sincerely

Matthew Ormsby, AIA
President, AIA Maryland

Laurence A. Frank, AIA
Past President, AIA Maryland

cc: Education Health and Environmental Affairs Committee:

Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair

Jack Bailey

Mary Beth Carozza

Arthur Ellis

Jason C. Gallion

Katie Fry Hester

Clarence K. Lam

Obie Patterson

Bryan W. Simonaire

Mary Washington

Karen Lewis Young

AIA Maryland Board of Directors

The American Institute of Architects

AIA Maryland
86 Maryland Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

T (410) 263 0916

F (410) 263 5603

www.aiaMaryland.org

Support for Senate Bill 746 John Gentzel

Uploaded by: GENTZEL, DENNIS

Position: FAV

Senate Bill 746 – Public Safety – State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement

Testimony of J. Dennis Gentzel, representing the National
Fallen Firefighters Foundation, February 25, 2020

Good afternoon Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chairman Kagan and members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee. My name is Dennis Gentzel and I am here today representing the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. I am a member of the Pikesville Volunteer Fire Company in Baltimore County with over 30 years of service and over 55 years as a volunteer firefighter/EMT. I am a graduate of the University of Maryland with a B.S> Degree in Fire Protection and I am a Maryland Licensed Professional Engineer. I am retired from the Office of the State Fire Marshal of Maryland and the National Fire Academy in Emmittsburg, Maryland. During my last 4 years with the Office of the State Fire Marshal, I was the Chief Fire Protection Engineer. I have always considered sprinklers my “specialty.” I have well over 30 years of experience in Plan Review and Inspection of Sprinkler Systems. I was also on the Adjunct Faculty and taught sprinklers for 15 years at Catonsville Community College. I built a new home in 1988 and installed residential sprinklers in the new home. I still live in this home.

Residential sprinklers save lives. Not just of the occupants but also volunteer and career firefighters. It is important that all areas of the State consistently receive the same level of Code Enforcement when it comes to Sprinklers in One and Two Family Dwellings. Currently Sprinklers in One and Two Family Dwellings are not enforced at the same level across the State of Maryland.

Senate Bill 746 really makes sense to me. The Office of the State Fire Marshal has the highly trained staff in strategic locations around the State to do the Plan Review and Inspections of One and Two Family Residential Sprinkler Systems. It is difficult for me to believe that any other State Agency could provide this service.

Maryland is a leader around the country when it comes to fire protection both in structure firefighting and in Fire Prevention and Life Safety activities. It is time for the effective and consistent enforcement of One and Two Family Sprinkler requirements around the State of Maryland.

I respectfully request your support of House Bill 823 for all citizens of Maryland, all firefighters in Maryland and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Thank you

Support Testimony SB746 Hildebrand

Uploaded by: HILDEBRAND, BIKL

Position: FAV

**Eastern Shore of Maryland
Volunteer Fireman's Association**



March 1, 2020

Senator Paul Pinsky
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Senator Pinsky,

I am writing to inform you that the Eastern Shore of Maryland Volunteer Fireman's Association at our quarterly meeting, February 16, 2020, voted to support the legislation making The State Fire Marshall the enforcing agency for sprinkler systems in Maryland. In the Senate that bill is SB746. The members of the Association believe that sprinklers save lives and consider them as one of many tools we in the fire service have available to us to protect the citizens of Maryland.

The State Fire Marshal's Office is already tasked with many law enforcement activities that pertain to fire safety in Maryland. It makes sense that they should also be involved with the installation and maintenance of sprinkler systems and enforcement of any legislation pertaining to sprinkler systems in the state.

The Eastern Shore of Maryland Volunteer Fireman's Association thank you for introducing SB746 making the State Fire Marshal's Office the enforcing agency for sprinklers in Maryland. You have our full support on this legislation.

Sincerely,

William Hildebrand
President

MGA_Delegate Holmes_FAV_SB0746

Uploaded by: Holmes, Marvin

Position: FAV

MARVIN E. HOLMES, JR.
Legislative District 23B
Prince George's County

Environment and
Transportation Committee

Chair
Housing and Real Property
Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 313
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
301-858-3310 • 410-841-3310
800-492-7122 Ext. 3310
Fax 301-858-3850 • 410-841-3850
Marvin.Holmes@house.state.md.us

District Office
P. O. Box 1631
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20773-1631
301-249-2602
Fax 301-560-4946

February 10, 2020

Maryland Fire-EMS Coalition

The Fire/EMS Coalition unites Republicans and Democrats in support of fire/emergency services legislation that benefit all first responders. Becoming a member does not require taking positions on legislation; rather Coalition members are asked to pledge support in a way that best benefits fire/emergency services in their respective Legislative Districts.

Delegate Marvin E. Holmes, Chair

Support For SB Bill 746 – State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement

**We urge the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
Committee to give SB 746 a Favorable Report.**

THE MARYLAND FIRE-EMS COALITION PARTICIPANTS REPRESENT THE MARYLAND SENATE AND THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES. VOTING MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS ARE: MARYLAND FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION (MFCA), MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION (MSFA), PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS OF MARYLAND (PFFMD), MARYLAND FIRE RESCUE INSTITUTE(MFRA), MARYLAND INSTITUTE FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEMS (MIEMMS), STATE FIRE MARSHAL(OSFM), AND MARYLAND METRO FIRE CHIEF'S COUNCIL (MMFCC)

ROTH SB746

Uploaded by: Roth, Johnie

Position: FAV



SANDY SPRING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

**17921 BROOKE Road
SANDY SPRING, MARYLAND 20860
301-774-7400**

**Johnie F. Roth, Jr.
President
17921 Brooke Road
Sandy Spring, Maryland 20860
Office - (301) 774-7400
Cell - (202) 215-2954
Johnie.roth@ssvfd.com**

Chairman Pinsky

Madam Vice Chair Kagan

SUPPORT FOR SB 746 – STATE FIRE MARSHAL – SPRINKLER SYSTEMS ENFORCEMENT

**Chairman Pinsky, Madam Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee.**

**My name is Johnie Roth and I am here today in SUPPORT of SB 746
from the officers and members of the Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire
Department, located in Montgomery County, Maryland.**

**As a proud Volunteer Firefighter for the last 53 years and serving as
the Past Chief, I can tell you, first hand, that fires have changed dramatically
over the years. Today, homes are made with lightweight construction
materials and the materials inside the homes are made of toxic flammable
materials that burn faster and hotter than ever before. Fires that we fight
today are extremely challenging and even more dangerous to our firefighters
and rescuers as increasing numbers of firefighter cancers are being
diagnosed.**

**The addition of the 10-year sealed smoke alarm law was the first step
for Maryland to get our citizens out of their homes as soon as possible in the
event of a fire. The next major step was to pass the Maryland Law requiring
the installation of sprinkler systems in "New Single Family Homes". This was
a no-brainer and was crucial to protecting Marylanders across this great
state from loss of life and was basically placing a firefighter in the home 24**

hours a day, 365 days a year. It is an obligation of each and every fire and rescue service member to do everything within our power to promote Fire safety and to Save Lives and Protect Property.

This is what has brought us to today's hearing. The Maryland Law requiring the installation of Residential Sprinkler Systems in New Single Family Homes is being violated today and we need the Maryland State Fire Marshal and his Deputies to enforce the law. Short and simple, this is the issue before you today.

Opponents to the Residential Sprinklers have used every argument imaginable for the last 3 years from the cost, to special equipment needed, to prospective buyers and builders fleeing Maryland to other states, and that the requirements are killing their local economy. My answer to them is, what price do you put on a life? Why wouldn't you want to give a family every opportunity to escape a fire in their home? It's a proven fact that Residential Sprinklers, in conjunction with Smoke Alarms "Saves Lives".

We've had many required changes over the years in the State of Maryland for the good of everyone in this state, but there are few groups in this state that just don't want to be told by their state legislators that you must do this or that. There are those that don't like or abide the speed limits on our highways, those that won't wear seatbelts in cars or wear helmets when riding motorcycles, and now those that don't want to be told to install Residential Sprinklers.

In closing, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, of the many bills that you will hear this session, this is one of the most important bills regarding the Public Safety of all Marylanders. I thank you for your hearing of this bill and hope and pray that you will do the right thing by giving the enforcement powers to the Maryland State Fire Marshal and his deputies and make Maryland a safe state for all our future residents.

We look forward to a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 746 from the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and would be glad to answer any questions that you may have.

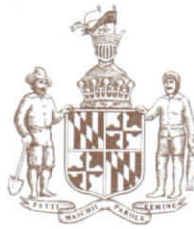
**Thank You
Johnie F. Roth, Jr.
President
Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department**

Beidle_FAV_SB746

Uploaded by: Senator Beidle, Senator Beidle

Position: FAV

PAMELA G. BEIDLE
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Finance Committee
Vice Chair
Executive Nominations Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 4, 2020

SB746
State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Education, Health, and Environment Affairs Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss Senate Bill 746, State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement. This bill will ensure that Maryland's residential sprinkler requirement is enforced, by giving the State Fire Marshal authority to enforce the State's requirements that automatic sprinkler systems be installed in new one- and two-family dwellings.

In 2008, the residential sprinkler requirement was incorporated into the International Residential Code for all new one- and two-family dwellings.

In 2012, through a bill sponsored by Del. James Malone, Jr., the legislature passed a law saying that all counties and municipalities are prohibited from weakening these automatic sprinkler requirements.

Unfortunately, at least one jurisdiction is ignoring the sprinkler requirement and allowing new homes to be built without sprinklers. In the process, they are putting the lives of homeowners at risk, and the lives of firefighters at risk.

There is no enforcement of the sprinkler requirement currently taking place. That is why this bill gives authority to enforce the requirement to the State Fire Marshal.

As the State Fire Marshal has legal authority to enforce laws concerning the installation and maintenance of equipment intended to control, detect, or extinguish fire, it makes sense to give the Fire Marshal clear authority to enforce the sprinkler requirement.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on House Bill 823.

SUPPORT TESTIMONY_SB746 JOSH_SHAPIRO

Uploaded by: SHAPIRO, JOSH

Position: FAV

Senate Bill 746 – Public Safety – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement

Testimony of Josh Shapiro Chairman of the Capital Region Fire Sprinkler Association (CRFSA)

March 5, 2020

Good afternoon Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chairman Kagan, and members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee.

My name is Josh Shapiro, Chairman for the Capital Region Fire Sprinkler Association (CRFSA), which represents fire sprinkler manufacturers, suppliers, and vendors in the Maryland, Washington D.C., and Northern Virginia area. I am testifying today in favor of Senate Bill 746.

As you are aware, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation in 2012 that would require all new residential homes built within the state to be outfitted with lifesaving fire sprinklers.

Senate Bill 746 is being brought to your desks today because some counties in the state are trying to ignore the law that was passed in 2012. Unfortunately, the Office of the State Fire Marshal has their hands tied and cannot enforce the law for residential sprinklers in new one- and two-family dwellings since it rests under the umbrella of the Maryland Department of Labor.

Mr. Chairman, fire sprinklers save lives. They are first on scene before firefighters arrive. You should be very happy that above your heads are fire sprinklers. Like insurance, hopefully those fire sprinklers will never be used but if they do, they could potentially save your lives.

Five years and one month ago, in January 2015, six people were lost in what has been named the ‘Annapolis Mansion Fire.’ Had residential fire sprinklers been installed in the house, all lives could have been saved. I recently spoke a few weeks ago to the Annapolis City Council with Vickie Pritchett of the National Fire Sprinkler Association and Sher Grogg, the sister of Don Pyle who lost his life that tragic day. We discussed the importance of fire sprinklers and how it helps to contain a fire while firefighters are still en route. More importantly, we discussed how fire sprinklers can buy you some time to exit the property safely.

In my capacity as Chairman for the Capital Region Fire Sprinkler Association, my chapter would like to show full support for the efforts to move enforcement to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. We cannot afford to lose more lives in residential fires and look back to today knowing that we could have done something to change it.

Support Testimony - SB-746 - Paul Sullivan Jr

Uploaded by: SULLIVAN, PAUL

Position: FAV



Maryland Fire Chiefs Association

Representing the Maryland Emergency Services Officers with Progression While Maintaining Tradition

March 3, 2020

Hon. Senator Paul G Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health and
Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Baden Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: **SUPPORT** for Senate Bill 746

Dear Chairman Pinsky,

My name is Paul E. Sullivan, Jr. and I am the President of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association (MFCA). The MFCA serves as the organization representing over 1600 volunteer and career Chief Officers throughout Maryland. I am writing on behalf of the members of the MFCA who are in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 746, State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler System Enforcement.

Nearly every day, firefighters arrive at a house fire, apartment or high-rise fire to find individuals trapped because there weren't working smoke alarms or fire sprinklers. In many incidents, the fire has spread from one home or building to another, causing hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars in lost property.

It's not just the occupants who are in jeopardy; the firefighters arriving to help are also in harm's way, many giving their lives annually in the line of duty. In 2012, the Maryland General Assembly recognized the importance of residential sprinklers by passing legislation requiring them in all new single family dwellings by 2015.

Today, we face an issue with the enforcement of residential sprinkler requirements. Many jurisdictions across Maryland have agencies that enforce residential sprinkler requirements. Unfortunately, there are some jurisdictions that do not have the ability to provide such enforcement or have chosen to not enforce residential sprinkler laws. I hope that you will agree that this is unacceptable. The fire service has known for decades that fire sprinklers are the best way to keep the public and firefighters safe from fire.

For decades, the State Fire Marshal's Office has been tasked with enforcing sprinkler regulations in commercial buildings. The MFCA believes that giving the State Fire Marshal's Office the overall authority to enforce residential sprinkler laws would close the gap and ensure the laws are enforced. The members of the MFCA appreciate the Committee's time in this matter and respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** vote on Senate Bill 746.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul E. Sullivan, Jr.
President
Maryland Fire Chiefs Association

Maryland State Firemen's Assoc Support of SB 746

Uploaded by: TOMANELLI, KATE

Position: FAV

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel



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March 5, 2020

SUPPORT OF SB 746; Public Safety – State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement

Chairman Pinsky
Vice Chair Kagan
Environment and Transportation Committee

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice Chair and members of the committee. My name is Kate Tomanelli and I am the Executive Director for the Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA), a statewide organization representing over 25,000 volunteer fire, rescue, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics and 363 member companies.

The MSFA is requesting a favorable report for SB 746, which would give the State Fire Marshal's office the enforcement capabilities it needs to make sure that all of the counties, jurisdictions, and home builders are following the current Maryland LAW that requires fire sprinklers to be installed in all new one and two family homes.

This bill is not only necessary, but it makes the most sense. It would create consistency and effectiveness across all of our partner organizations having one agency within the State that not only licenses contactors, inspects and tests fire protection systems, and performs fire protection system plan reviews, but also enforces our fire sprinkler laws. No other agency would be better tasked with this than the Maryland State Fire Marshal's office.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Tomanelli
MSFA, Executive Director

Sprinkler testimony letter SB 746 S WANTZ

Uploaded by: WANTZ, STEPHEN

Position: FAV

**Board of County
Commissioners**

**Stephen A. Wantz
President**



Carroll County Government

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Support Testimony SB 746

Good afternoon. Stephen Wantz President Carroll County Board of Commissioners

Retired 30 year career firefighter and Past President of Carroll County's Volunteer Emergency Services Association and current active volunteer with 44 years experience.

Fire Sprinklers save lives. When a fire starts, its high temperature causes the sprinkler to quickly control deadly heat smoke and flames while the fire is still small. That action prevents injuries and saves lives.

I say that obvious info, not just for our citizens, but also our firefighters. I'm coming at this from another direction. All across our State, volunteer firefighters answer the call each and every minute of the day. All of us in your rural counties, as well as the larger counties, struggle with recruiting and retaining individuals who are willing to run into burning buildings while all others are running out. It is becoming a huge fiscal challenge as all continue to explore the cost of hiring to combat lack of volunteerism. That's a huge price tag.

Reducing injuries by at least 80%, reducing property damage by at least 90%, and substantially reducing damage to the environment are all factors in protecting your volunteer firefighters. Not only are we protecting our citizens, but we are utilizing a critical tool in the toolbox to make the job of volunteer firefighter increasingly viable. Engineers and plumbers etc., use equations to ensure proper activation for sprinklers. Let me share a sprinkler equation for you: Less possibility of injury and death + less time on scene equals a commonsense solution for public safety.

SB 746 puts the teeth in ensuring that equation works!!

Enforcement by the State Fire Marshal to ensure proper tools and necessary support.....priceless ! I ask for your favorable report.

Stephen A. Wantz, President
Carroll County Board of Commissioners