

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel
www.msfa.org



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SENATE BILL 319 – VEHICLE LAWS – MOVE OVER SAFETY MONITORING SYSTEM - AUTHORIZATION

Good afternoon Chairman Smith and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee.

My name is Johnie Roth, Jr. and I Chair the Legislative Committee of the Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA), and I am writing in SUPPORT of SENATE BILL 319.

The MSFA is a statewide organization representing over 25,000 volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical technicians and 363 member companies.

As a veteran of the fire and rescue services in Montgomery County, Maryland for the last 53 years I have been on the scene of single and multi-vehicle accidents where while we are either treating patients or removing patients from their vehicles that we were placed in danger by fast moving traffic. The current Move Over Law's purpose was to protect police, fire and rescue personnel, and now tow truck operators, and state service vehicles from being struck while performing their jobs. For the most part this law has improved safety to our providers on the scenes of our roadways. Statistics from the Maryland District Courts for 2018 state that 10 work zone fatalities occurred on Maryland highways and that 2,937 citations were issued during that same.

We recognize that our jobs on Maryland highways are a challenge enough and that many don't abide by the posted speed limits and that no law is not going to solve all the problems of DUI and distracted drivers, but feel that this is another deterrent to those drivers to slow down and "MOVE OVER".

It is for these and many other reason we are in SUPPORT of Senator Bailey's SB319 and urge your FAVORABLE report of this important bill.

Johnie F. Roth, Jr., Chairman
MSFA Legislative Committee