

PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS OF MARYLAND

JEFFREY BUDDLE, PRESIDENT
JOHN F. QUIRK, SECRETARY TREASURER



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CHARTERED 1969

February 12, 2020

Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 330 – Civil Actions – Defenses – Fireman’s Rule

Chairman Smith,

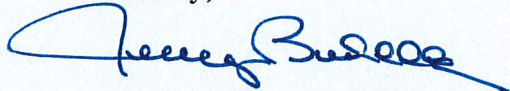
The Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland represents over 10,000 active and retired fire fighters and paramedics across the State of Maryland. On behalf of our members we strongly support Senate Bill 330 and urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a **favorable report**.

Senate Bill 330 would eliminate as a defense the common law doctrine know as the “Fireman’s Rule”. Under current law the firefighters’ rule does not allow firefighters or police officers to recover tort damages from individuals whose negligent actions required the firefighters or police officers service where the injury occurred. The Maryland Court of Appeals affirmed this rule in the Case of White v. State, 419 Md. 265 (2011).

Senate Bill 330 fixes a long outdated common law provision which time has passed. It is also important to remember that other common law or statutory defenses, privileges or immunities to a tort claim are not affected by this legislation

On behalf of all the members of the Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland we strongly support SB330 and urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a **favorable report**.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Buddle, President
Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland