

Maryland Fire Marshals Committee

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Senator Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Senator Brian J. Feldman, Vice Chair
Finance Committee
Maryland General Assembly
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SENATE BILL 0481 – STATE FIRE MARSHAL – INVESTIGATIONS
– REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Dear Senators Kelley and Feldman,

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

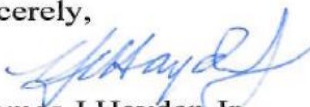
The Maryland Metro Chiefs Fire Marshal Committee concurs with the written testimony provided by Maryland State Fire Marshal Brian Geraci on SB 0481. It should be noted that the State Fire Marshal does not have jurisdiction in some of the larger counties within the state, and due to that the State Fire Marshal's Office would not be able to comply with this provision as they would not be the lead agency.

Additionally, The Public Service Commission who has their own investigators, conducts investigations to determine if in fact a public service utility provider is at fault either due to a failure of their equipment or materials and therefore would have the same information of that of the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Should an incident of this type be determined to be criminal in nature, investigating agencies would be prohibited from disclosing information. While we understand the need for timely disclosure of information, it is not always possible in these complex investigations.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation and we respectfully ask the committee to give Senate Bill 0481 an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,


Thomas J Hayden Jr
Chairman Metro Chiefs Fire Marshal Committee