

# **HB900 Senate Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mike McKay

Position: FAV

MIKE MCKAY  
Legislative District 1C  
Allegany and Washington Counties

Appropriations Committee



Annapolis Office  
The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 322  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3321 · 301-858-3321  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3321  
Mike.McKay@house.state.md.us

District Office  
100 North Mechanic Street  
Cumberland, Maryland 21502  
240-362-7040

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 30, 2022

Finance Committee

3 East, Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman and Members of the Finance Committee,

It is my pleasure to present HB900. This bill prohibits the Maryland Department of Health and local health departments from collecting fees for certified or abridged copies of death certificates for first responders killed in the line of duty if the copy is provided to the first responder's surviving spouse or child

for a certain purpose.

A record number of law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty in 2021, the most ever recorded,

according to new data. In 2021, 458 law enforcement officers died - up 55% compared to 2020, according to data released by the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund (NLEOMF). In 2020, 295 federal, state,

local and tribal officers died in the line of duty. The closest number recorded was in 1930, when there was 312.

All Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians and Correction Officers in the State of Maryland should be issued a no cost Death Certificate when they die in the Line of Duty.

I urge a favorable report for HB900.

Thank you,

Delegate Mike McKay

Serving Allegany and Washington Counties

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Uploaded by: Robert Phillips

Position: FAV

# MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

REPRESENTING THE VOLUNTEER FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMS PERSONNEL OF MARYLAND.



**Robert P. Phillips**

**Chairman**

Legislative Committee

17 State Circle

Annapolis, MD 21401

email: rfcchief48@gmail.com

cell: 443-205-5030

Office: 410-974-2222

## **HB 900 Death Certificates – Fees – First Responders Killed in the Line of Duty**

My name is Robert Phillips the Legislative Committee Chairman for the Maryland State Firefighter's Association (MSFA).

I wish to present testimony in favor of **HB 900: Death Certificates – Fees – First Responders Killed in the Line of Duty.**

This legislation is supported by the MSFA, we feel that the surviving family of a First Responder who has died a Line of Duty Death should not have to then purchase the death certificates needed to try and put their life together again. Having just suffered the most tragic event of their lives we feel this is little that the ones they served could do for them.

I thank the committee for their time on this important issue and ask that you **FAVORABLY** support House Bill 900.

Thank you and I'd be glad to answer any questions that you might have.