

**MIKE MCKAY**  
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Appropriations Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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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