



Wes Moore | Governor
 Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
 Russell J. Strickland | Secretary

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS - HB1252
Public Safety - Voluntary Company Assistance Fund - Alterations

Maryland Department of Emergency Management
 Appropriations Committee
 Hearing Date: 30 MAR 2023

Chairman Ben Barnes
 Appropriations Committee
 Room 121
 House Office Building
 Annapolis, MD 21401

Chairman Barnes,

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) writes **in support with amendments of HB1252 - Public Safety - Voluntary Company Assistance Fund - Alterations.**

HB1252 expands the current Voluntary Company Assistance Fund (VCAF) authorized uses to include EMS equipment, facilities which house firefighting and EMS equipment, and facilities which house fire and rescue administrative functions, community assembly, and emergency shelter functions. The bill also streamlines the reporting requirements for the Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA). MDEM supports these changes as they reflect the needs of local volunteer fire and rescue companies across the State.

MDEM requests one technical amendment to this bill to clarify that MDEM is the Department responsible for the program. Historically, as an agency under the Military Department, Emergency Management has administered the program. When MDEM was formed in October 2021, the update to this portion of statute was overlooked. Specifically, we are requesting the following change:

Section 8-201(c)

"Department" means the ~~Military Department~~ **DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.**



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Russell J. Strickland | Secretary

MDEM can confirm the support of both the Military Department and the MSFA for this technical amendment, and has confirmed with Delegate Schmidt the amendment is acceptable.

In conclusion, MDEM urges a favorable report with the proposed amendments to HB1252 - Public Safety - Voluntary Company Assistance Fund - Alterations.

If you have any questions, please contact Anna Sierra, MDEM legislative liaison:
anna.sierra1@maryland.gov.