



State of Maryland

Maryland Institute *for* Emergency Medical Services Systems

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HB 788 Commission to Advance and Strengthen Fire Fighting within Maryland

MIEMSS Position: Support

Bill Summary: HB 788 establishes a Commission to Advance and Strengthen Fire Fighting within Maryland to study and make recommendations for recruiting and retaining fire fighters in Maryland. The Commission's findings and recommendations are to be submitted on or before December 1, 2023.

Rationale:

- Fire fighters are an integral part of Maryland's emergency medical services (EMS) system. They are routinely dispatched on calls for EMS services and as first responders, provide early treatment and stabilization until more advanced care arrives.
- Additionally, fire fighters are dispatched to the scene of motor vehicle collisions to secure a safe scene for EMS clinicians, the victims, and the public and assist with extrication of victims, etc.
- There are numerous jurisdictions across the state that have cross-trained personnel that respond to EMS calls. EMS is closely connected with the fire service in Maryland, both volunteer and career.
- Fire fighters and EMS Clinicians work together as partners. Effective recruitment and retention of fire fighters impacts Maryland's overall EMS system.
- The Commission to Advance and Strengthen Fire Fighting in Maryland will create a forum to identify ways to attract, support and retain fire fighters in Maryland.

MIEMSS Supports HB 788 and requests a Favorable Report.