



## Maryland Municipal League

*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

# TESTIMONY

March 29, 2023

**Committee:** House Appropriations

**Bill:** SB 414 – Commission to Advance and Strengthen Fire Fighting and Emergency Medical Services Within Maryland

**Position:** Support

**Reason for Position:**

MML strongly supports SB 414, which proposes a Commission to study the recruitment and retention of career and volunteer firefighters and emergency medical service (EMS) providers in our State.

Many municipalities employ/incentivize career and volunteer EMS and firefighter services; however, we are experiencing acute shortages in all EMS functions following the COVID-19 pandemic. As the bill's preamble states, we all benefit from strong and efficient fire, rescue, and EMS response systems at the county and local levels. This Commission is an excellent step towards ensuring these vital services can continue.

For these reasons, MML supports SB 414 and respectfully requests a favorable report.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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