

MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

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



Robert P. Phillips

Chair

Legislative Committee

17 State Circle

Annapolis, MD 21401

email: rfcchief48@gmail.com

cell: 443-205-5030

Office: 410-974-2222

Fax: 410-974-3999

SB 516: Cannabis Reform

My name is Robert Phillips and I am the Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland State Firefighters Association (MSFA)

I wish to present testimony in favor with amendments of Senate Bill 516: Cannabis Reform

The MSFA is in favor of finding a continuous funding source for the MEMSOF fund. The funding source needs to reflect the yearly increases in operational cost and inflation such that we do not find ourselves in the same predicament again in the coming years.

This MEMSOF provides monies to MFRI, MIEMSS, MSFA, MSPAC and Shock Trauma which allows them to provide their individual unique skills. The fund covers all aspects of field care once a call is received by a 911 call center and dispatched. From the arrival of Fire/EMS units to land or air transport of a patient, to the services provided by our Shock Trauma center this fund touches everything.

The partners sharing the fund have been coming before you every so many years asking for an increase in funding. The 2024 Budget Overview shows over a five-year period expenses going up 15 million dollars while present revenue goes up approximately 5 million. What we would like to see is an amendment where the cannabis reform bill provides funding for the MEMSOF fund.

The MSFA asks that the bill be amended as recommended by MIEMSS (attached document) to allow for additional MEMSOF funding.

I thank the committee for their time and attention to this important bill and ask that you vote favorable with amendments on Senate Bill 516.

I will be glad to answer any questions, as my contact information is listed above and welcome any further inquiries you might have.