



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 21, 2023

Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

Bill: SB 414 – Commission to Advance and Strengthen Fire Fighting Within Maryland

Position: Support with amendments

Reason for Position:

MML strongly supports SB 414, the creation of a Commission to recruit and retain career and volunteer firefighters in our State. We also greatly appreciate our meaningful inclusion on the Commission, as local governments employ/incentivize career and volunteer firefighter services for our communities. As the bill's preamble states, we all benefit from strong and efficient fire, rescue, and emergency medical service response systems at the county and local levels. This Commission is an excellent step towards ensuring firefighting services can continue.

However, emergency medical service (EMS) providers include more than firefighters. Some fire departments have firefighter-only roles, while others require being cross-trained as a firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). Municipal EMS providers are experiencing acute shortages in all EMS functions. Including EMS positions in this study would help local governments support our heroes and ensure the safety of our residents.

With adoption of these amendments, MML would respectfully request a favorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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