

PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS OF MARYLAND



CHARTER 1969

DATE: February 16, 2023

TO: Senator Melony Griffith, Chair
Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Jeffrey Buddle, President
Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland

RE: SB299 – Food Service Facilities – AED Program (Joe Sheya Act)

The Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland represents more than 10,000 active and retired professional fire fighters and emergency medical services personnel who proudly serve the citizens of the State of Maryland.

As public safety professionals the serve the citizens of the State of Maryland we are well aware of the importance of having automated external defibrillators in any place or establishment that has a large number of people gathering at any one given time. When tragedy strikes critical minutes elapse between the time the 911 system is activated, and the time emergency medical personnel arrive on the scene of the incident.

Any costs associated with the purchase of AED's are diminimus when considered in the context of a life saved, which in our view is priceless.

On behalf of the members of Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland, we respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 256.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Buddle, President
Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland

The membership of the Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland includes 25 local IAFF affiliates from the following jurisdictions:

Federal: *Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Fort George G. Meade, National Capital Federal Fire Fighters, National Institutes of Health*

State: *Baltimore / Washington International Airport*

Local: *Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City (2 affiliates), Baltimore County, Carroll County, Cecil County, Charles County, Cumberland, Frederick County, Garrett County, Hagerstown, Howard County, Montgomery County, Ocean City, Prince Georges County, Queen Annes County, Salisbury, Talbot County, Worchester County*