

Testimony on Senate Bill 0917.pdf

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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 0917

Chairman Smith, Vice-Chairman Waldstreicher, Committee Members. My name is Ben Kurtz, President of the Maryland State Firemen's Association and the 365 Volunteer Fire/EMS Companies and Departments.

I'm testifying in favor of SB 0917 for the safety of the men and women of the Fire Police that direct traffic on the roadways and emergency scenes. All of us have come up on a Motor Vehicle Collision or other emergency scene where the brake lights and emergency red lights blend all together.

The Fire Police would like to have red and white lights for their personnel vehicle when they are on the scene directing traffic. In the Maryland Code Fire Police members can only activate their emergency lights on their vehicle only when they are stationary and or parked at the scene. They cannot use their emergency lights driving to the scene.

I'm asking the committee for a favorable vote. I would like to thank Delegate Dana Stein for sponsoring Senate Bill 0917.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin W. "Ben" Kurtz, President

Maryland State Firemen's Association

SB0917.docx.pdf

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Position: FAV



Allegany Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire Rescue Association
P.O. Box 935 Frostburg, MD 21532
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Judicial Proceedings Committee
Chair Senator William C. Smith Jr.
March 20, 2023

Dear Committee,

The Allegany Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire Rescue Association is writing you today to **fully support** SB0917: Vehicle Laws - Lighting - Privately Owned Vehicles of Volunteer Fire Company Members. There have been several unfortunate crashes that have taken place on Maryland roads and highways that involved fire trucks and police vehicles. With the addition of red and white lights on volunteer privately owned vehicles, we should see that this warning will increase volunteer firefighter and ems life safety and decrease unnecessary crashes.

As this proposed legislation continues through the committee, we offer our full support and will provide additional testimony if the occasion arises.

Sincerely,

Austin Christner, President

Jonathan Dayton, MS, NREMT, CNE, Vice President, Public Information Officer, and Legislative Committee Chairperson

The mission of the Allegany and Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association is to serve, promote, advocate and represent the interests of the volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical services in Allegany and Garrett Counties.