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BILL NO.: **HB 1096**

TITLE: Baltimore County - Property Tax Exemption - Real Property
Owned by Fire Company or Rescue Squad

SPONSOR: Delegate Nawrocki

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 7, 2023

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1096 – Baltimore County - Property Tax Exemption - Real Property Owned by Fire Company or Rescue Squad. This legislation would provide a tax credit for real property owned by a Volunteer Fire Company or Rescue Squad located in Baltimore County.

Baltimore County provides fire and rescue services through a hybrid model of both professional and volunteer fire companies located across the county. Our volunteer fire companies provide critical services for the communities in which they reside. When the COVID-19 pandemic hindered our volunteer firefighters’ ability to raise funds, County Executive Olszewski allocated \$1 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding to volunteer fire companies to keep critical services running effectively. As the County’s population continues to grow our volunteer companies can use additional help.

This is why Baltimore County has worked with the sponsor of House Bill 1096, and the Baltimore County House Delegation on a modest amendment that will specify that only property used exclusively for fire and rescue related activities currently or in the future, may be subject to the tax relief

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE with sponsor amendment** report on HB 1096. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.