

PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS OF MARYLAND



CHARTER 1969

TO: Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
House Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Jeffrey Buddle, President
Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland

DATE: February 2, 2023

RE: **FAVORABLE** - House Bill 15 - Income Tax Subtraction Modification
Military and Public Safety Retirement Income

The Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland, representing more than 10,000 active and retired professional fire fighters and paramedics who proudly serve the citizens of the State of Maryland fully support House Bill 15.

Fire fighters put their lives on the line every day protecting lives and property throughout our State. While our members enjoy long careers protecting the communities they serve, too many move out of Maryland once they reach retirement to take advantage of the tax breaks they receive from other nearby states.

Pennsylvania, Delaware, and South Carolina are examples of states which offer significant advantages for retirees when compared to Maryland. Pennsylvania is one of the most generous states in the nation when it comes to offering income tax exclusions on a wide variety of retirement income. Pennsylvania does not tax Social Security or any eligible pension plan. Furthermore, it does not tax distributions from 401(K), deferred compensation plans, or other retirement accounts.

Making our state as welcoming and friendly as possible to retirees is simply the right thing to do.

After years of our members retiring out of state, continuing to move the ball forward on income tax subtractions for service-related retirement benefits would be a great step to ensuring that the people who spend their lives in service to others are given the support and tax relief that they deserve to stay and retire in Maryland.

On behalf of the members of Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland, we encourage a favorable report on House Bill 15.

Submitted respectfully,



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