

EDITH J. PATTERSON, ED.D.
Legislative District 28
Charles County

Ways and Means Committee

Subcommittees

Local Revenues

Chair, Racing and Gaming

Chair, Southern Maryland
House Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB 0947
Charles County – Property Tax – Credit for Volunteer Emergency Responders

March 7, 2023

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Wilkins, and Members of the House Ways & Means Committee:

For the record, I am Delegate Edith Patterson, representing House Bill 0947 – Charles County – Property Tax – Credit for Volunteer Emergency Responders.

This legislation, which is being introduced at the request of the Charles County Commissioners, is a tax credit for certain active or retired volunteer members of a fire or emergency medical services company that provides services in Charles County, against the property tax imposed on residential. This credit requires that the federal adjusted gross income of the emergency responder or unmarried surviving spouse is \$150,000 or less.

As you know, emergency response departments across the State of Maryland are having a hard time hiring volunteers to provide the vital services on which our growing communities depend. In addition, departments find that retaining these positions can be difficult. It is my hope, and that of the Charles County Delegation and Charles County Government, that we can find a way to ensure these volunteer service positions remain filled and allow the departments to continue to attract brave and talented individuals to these most necessary services.

Charles County wants to honor the sacrifices our first responders and their families make. This property tax exemption would give the volunteer responders some much needed support and I respectfully urge you to vote favorably for SB0521. Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edith Patterson".

Delegate Edith J. Patterson
D-28, Charles County