

MARY BETH CAROZZA  
Legislative District 38  
Somerset, Wicomico,  
and Worcester Counties

Education, Energy, and  
the Environment Committee

Executive Nominations Committee



Annapolis Office  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 316  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3645 · 301-858-3645  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3645  
Fax 410-841-3006 · 301-858-3006  
MaryBeth.Carozza@senate.state.md.us

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

**February 21, 2024**

**The Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**

**SB 829 – Somerset County – Fire Companies - Appropriations**

**Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza**

Thank you Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the distinguished Senate Budget and Taxation Committee for this opportunity to present Senate Bill 829 – Somerset County – Fire Companies – Appropriations.

This local priority legislation would allow the Somerset County Commissioners to allocate the appropriate funding for Somerset County’s volunteer fire companies from fiscal year 2025 through fiscal year 2030. The public local laws of Somerset County require the Somerset County Commissioners to appropriate funds to organized volunteer fire companies in the county, and this legislation would allow the County Commissioners to continue to fund these important community organizations at an appropriate rate.

There are eight organized volunteer fire companies in Somerset County, including Ewell, Marion, Princess Anne, Tylerton, Fairmount, Crisfield, Deal Island, and Mt. Vernon. The only non-volunteer Fire and EMS station in Somerset County is the Lower Somerset County Ambulance and Rescue Squad, so our volunteer fire companies carry a great deal of the burden of protecting the constituents of Somerset County – and for all of our visitors coming to Somerset County for the many attractions and events held in Somerset County including the annual J. Millard Tawes Crab & Clam Bake in Crisfield, the ultimate political networking event in Maryland.

Appropriations made by the county commissioners to volunteer fire companies were last changed by Chapter 328 of 2019, which unanimously passed the Senate and the House and was signed into law by the governor on April 24, 2018. This legislation simply allows Somerset County to support its volunteer fire companies in providing needed fire emergency service for both our residents and visitors alike.

I thank you for your kind attention and consideration, and I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 829, an important local public safety bill for Somerset County.