

FAV - MDEM - SB255 - Public Safety - VCAF Alterati

Uploaded by: Anna Sierra

Position: FAV



FAVORABLE - SB255
Public Safety - Volunteer Company Assistance Fund - Alterations

Maryland Department of Emergency Management
Education, Energy, and the Environment
Hearing Date: 1 FEB 2024

Chairman Brian Feldman
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chairman Feldman,

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) writes **in support of SB255 - Public Safety - Volunteer Company Assistance Fund - Alterations**. MDEM requested the introduction of this bill in order to update the statute to reflect current practice.

Legislative Change

Page 2, line 1 will change statutory authority for the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund from the Maryland Military Department to the Maryland Department of Emergency Management. This change will reflect the current administration of the Fund.

Background

When the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) was formed, it elevated the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to a cabinet-level Department and separated it from the Maryland Military Department (MMD). Prior to the separation, MMD delegated the administration of the Volunteer Company Assistance Program (VCAF) to MEMA. Once MDEM was formed, MDEM maintained the responsibility for administering VCAF, retaining the fiscal administrator position for the program and including the fund in our departmental budget. However, the statute was not updated to reflect this transition with the passage of the bill that



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Russell J. Strickland | Secretary

formed MDEM. MDEM has been administering the Fund under a Memorandum of Agreement with MMD since the separation to ensure continued operation of the Fund while a legislative solution could be achieved.

In conclusion, MDEM urges a favorable report of SB255 - Public Safety - Volunteer Company Assistance Fund - Alterations.

If you have any questions, please contact Anna Sierra, MDEM legislative liaison:
anna.sierra1@maryland.gov.

SB255 written testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Robert Phillips

Position: FAV

Maryland State Firefighters Association

Representing The Volunteer Fire, Rescue, And EMS Personnel of Maryland.



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SB 255 Public Safety – Volunteer Company Assistance Fund – Alterations

My name is Robert Phillips, and I am the legislative chair for the Maryland State Firefighters Association (MSFA). I would like to present testimony in favor of: SB 255 Public Safety – Volunteer Company Assistance Fund – Alterations

The MSFA is in full support of this bill. The MSFA is the association that works with volunteer fire companies through the application process to secure a loan or grant for a new piece of fire equipment, building repair or replacement.

This bill defines the proper flow of paperwork from the volunteer fire company, to the MSFA and onto the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) to be properly filed and the loan or grant finalized.

Thank you for your attention to this very important bill, and I ask for your FAVORABLE vote on SB 255.

I will now be glad to answer any questions, or my contact information is listed above and I welcome any inquiries you may have.