

**SB807 as amended favorable.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lory Ebron

Position: FAV

## COMMISSIONERS FOR SOMERSET COUNTY

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### COMMISSIONERS

CHARLES LAIRD, PRESIDENT  
RANDY LAIRD, VICE-PRESIDENT  
CRAIG N. MATHIES, SR.  
ELDON WILLING  
DARRYL K. WEBSTER



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
RALPH D. TAYLOR

DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
ERNEST J. LEATHERBURY, JR.

COUNTY ATTORNEY  
KIRK G. SIMPKINS

March 6, 2024

The Honorable Senator Brian J. Feldman  
Education, Energy and the Environment Committee  
2 West  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: **Senate Bill 807 as amended** –Somerset County – Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services as amended – **Letter of Support**

Dear Senator Brian J. Feldman and Committee Members:

The Board of Commissioners for Somerset County wish to state their support of Senate Bill 807 – Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services as amended.

The passage of this local bill will allow The Board of Commissioners for Somerset County to enact local laws and adopt other measures necessary to properly manage, direct and regulate our fire, rescue and EMS services in the County and promote the highest quality pre-hospital emergency medical care for every resident and visitor of Somerset County. As a result of the Somerset County EMS Task Force analysis performed last year, strengths and weaknesses of the current process was reviewed. This bill will also give Somerset County the authority to create an entity to administer the county's affairs relating to EMS. In order to successfully implement changes going forward among our current medical service providers, the passage of this bill is imperative.

Additionally, as amended this bill will allow the County to impose an annual fee on improved property to offset the costs of County wide Emergency Services.

Thank you for your consideration, and we therefore powerfully recommend a **favorable report** on SB 807 that will allow Somerset County to more adequately serve Emergency Medical Service of our residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Charles Laird'.

Charles Laird  
President

Cc: Senator Carozza

**SB 807 - Carozza Testimony\_FINAL.pdf**

Uploaded by: Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Position: FAV

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

Education, Energy, and  
the Environment Committee

Executive Nominations Committee



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

**March 7, 2024**

**The Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee**  
**SB 807 – Somerset County – Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services**  
**Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza**

Thank you Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and my fellow members of the distinguished Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee for this opportunity to present Senate Bill 807 – Somerset County – Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services.

This local priority legislation would authorize the Somerset County Commissioners to establish a body to administer the county’s affairs relating to fire, rescue, and emergency medical services while maintaining the volunteer emergency services. The Somerset County Commissioners would also establish an Emergency Services Advisory Council to provide the County Commissioners with recommendations regarding the operations of fire suppression, emergency medical, and hazardous materials services in the county.

There are eight organized volunteer fire companies in Somerset County, including Crisfield, Princess Anne, Marion, Mt. Vernon, Fairmount, Deal Island, and Ewell and Tylerton (both on Smith Island). The only non-volunteer Fire and EMS station in Somerset County is the Lower Somerset County Ambulance and Rescue Squad, which highlights the fact the County’s volunteer fire companies carry a significant 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.

Currently, the Somerset County Commissioners do not have authority under the law to establish an Emergency Services Advisory Council and are required to appropriate funds to organized volunteer fire companies in the county through the Maryland General Assembly. This was done in 2018 for fiscal years 2019 through 2024 and I have introduced legislation this year for fiscal years 2025 through 2030 in order to allow the County Commissioners to continue to fund these important community organizations at an appropriate rate.

We want to empower our locals to support our fire, rescue, and emergency medical services in providing needed emergency services for both our residents and visitors alike. Fourteen other

counties and Baltimore City similar to this bill's proposed organizational structure, including Allegany, Calvert, Cecil, Charles, Frederick, Garrett, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Talbot, Washington, and Worcester.

I thank you for your kind attention and consideration, and I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 807, an important local public safety bill for Somerset County.

# **Senate Delegation Support - Committee Requirement.**

Uploaded by: Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Position: FAV

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

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 7, 2024

The Honorable Brian Feldman  
Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Feldman,

The Somerset County Delegation supports Senate Bill 807 – Somerset County – Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services. I thank you for your committee’s consideration of this bill and request a favorable report.

In Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Beth Carozza".

MARY BETH CAROZZA  
State Senator – District 38  
Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico