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Education, Energy, and
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Executive Nominations Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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

Thank you Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the distinguished House Environment and Transportation Committee for this opportunity to present Senate Bill 807 – Somerset County – Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services. The crossfile, House Bill 975, unanimously passed the House before Crossover.

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.

Currently, the Somerset County Commissioners do not have authority under the law to establish an Emergency Services Advisory Council without the support of the Maryland General Assembly. 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 have an advisory body 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.