

HB 823 Fire Protection and Prevention - Residential Rental Property - Requirements
(Melanie Nicholle Diaz Fire Safety Act)

Hearing before the House Environment and Transportation Committee, Feb 20, 2024
Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

My name is Mike English, I live in downtown Silver Spring and I am here to speak strongly in support of this fire safety bill.

In the wake of the fire that took Ms. Diaz's life, I have spoken to multiple friends, and multiple renters I've talked with in my advocacy, who took it for granted that basic safety measures like sprinklers were included in their building. I can't really blame them, few of us think of mitigation measures before they are needed, and that is what makes the protection measures and information disclosures included in this bill so vital.

With the governor recently signaling that he will not enforce the fire marshall's mandate for sprinklers in older high rises, this bill is more necessary than ever, making sure people know what safety measures their building does and does not have, and adding incentives, requirements, and protections that will help update detective equipment and other safety measures.

Whatever moralizing we do about what people should and should not know, *we* know that many people will not have a detailed idea of their building's fire safety measures until a fire happens. This bill will help improve that state of affairs by making disclosures more encompassing and prominent, and help people have as much information as possible before a fire happens, as much warning as possible when one does, and as much aid in evacuation when that is needed.

I strongly urge a favorable report.

Thank you

Mike English
Silver Spring