

*STATE OF MARYLAND  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR*

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**WES MOORE.**  
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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

Dear Chairman Wilson, Vice-chair Crosby, and members of the committee,

On behalf of Governor Wes Moore, I urge a favorable report on SB 476/HB 584 - Workers' Compensation - Occupational Disease Presumptions - First Responders (Caring for Public Employees in the Safety Professions - CAPES Act).

The CAPES Act continues the extraordinary work this committee has done over the years to ensure that our worker's compensation laws adequately recognize the severe occupational risks faced by Maryland first responders. Current law identifies several cancers that are presumptively considered occupationally related for the purposes of worker's compensation, including leukemia, prostate, rectal, throat, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, brain, testicular, bladder, kidney, renal cell, or breast cancers. The CAPES Act expands that list to also include presumptions for thyroid, colon, and ovarian cancers. The science surrounding these three additional classes of cancers has become increasingly clear, and it is time for Maryland to add them to the list of cancer presumptions.

First responders, including firefighters, police officers, and other emergency personnel, routinely put themselves in harm's way to protect our communities. They face numerous hazards, including exposure to toxic substances and carcinogens, which can have serious long-term health consequences. By adding thyroid, colon, and ovarian cancers as occupational diseases, the CAPES Act ensures that these brave individuals are appropriately supported if they develop such conditions as a result of their service.

Sincerely,  
Myles Hicks  
Deputy Legislative Officer  
Office of the Governor