

MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

REPRESENTING THE VOLUNTEER FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMS PERSONNEL OF MARYLAND.



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SB 323: Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Public Safety Volunteers

My name is Robert Phillips and I am the Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland State FireFighter's Association (MSFA). The MSFA represents the 35,000 plus fire/EMS volunteers across the state of Maryland.

I wish to present testimony in favor of **Senate Bill 323: Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Public Safety Volunteers**

This bill increases the amount of income subtraction available to the Volunteer Firefighter, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services responder. The income subtraction is a valuable tool used by the volunteer fire service to recruit and retain new and present firefighters. As we all know the act of volunteering is a shrinking idea in todays society. Anything that we can use to bring in and maintain present volunteers is very important. Local governments struggle with budgets and the loss of the volunteer fire service could be a crushing blow to the communities that they serve if no longer available to provide their services.

I thank the committee for their time and attention to this important bill and ask that you vote **favorable** on Senate Bill 323.

I will be glad to answer any questions you might have now, or my contact information is listed above for future inquires.

