

FAVORABLE - SB255
Public Safety - Volunteer Company Assistance Fund - Alterations

Maryland Department of Emergency Management
Hearing Date: March 19, 2024

Chair Joseline Peña-Melnyk
Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Peña-Melnyk,

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) writes **in support of SB255 - Public Safety - Volunteer Company Assistance Fund - Alterations**. MDEM requested the introduction of this bill in order to update the statute to reflect current practice.

Legislative Change

Page 2, line 1 will change statutory authority for the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund from the Maryland Military Department to the Maryland Department of Emergency Management. This change will reflect the current administration of the Fund.

Background

When the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) was formed, it elevated the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to a cabinet-level Department and separated it from the Maryland Military Department (MMD). Prior to the separation, MMD delegated the administration of the Volunteer Company Assistance Program (VCAF) to MEMA. Once MDEM was formed, MDEM maintained the responsibility for administering VCAF, retaining the fiscal administrator position for the program and including the fund in our departmental budget. However, the statute was not updated to reflect this transition with the passage of the bill that formed MDEM. MDEM has been administering the Fund under a Memorandum of



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Russell J. Strickland | Secretary

Agreement with MMD since the separation to ensure continued operation of the Fund while a legislative solution could be achieved.

In conclusion, MDEM urges a favorable report of SB255 - Public Safety - Volunteer Company Assistance Fund - Alterations.

If you have any questions, please contact Anna Sierra, MDEM legislative liaison:
anna.sierra1@maryland.gov.