

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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



Robert P. Phillips

Chairman

Legislative Committee

17 State Circle

Annapolis, MD 21401

email: rfcchief48@gmail.com

cell: 443-205-5030

Office: 410-974-2222

SB 435: Criminal Law – Crimes of Arson – Prohibitions and Penalties

My name is Robert Phillips and I am the Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland State Firefighters Association (MSFA)

I wish to present testimony in favor of **Senate Bill 435: Criminal Law – Crimes of Arson – Prohibitions and Penalties**

The MSFA is in full support of SB435. Every time the emergency alert goes off many first responders put their lives on the line for others. There are dangers always present no matter the type of call. When the call is for a fire the possibility and level of danger goes up. When the cause of the fire is ARSON, then we are putting lives in danger for a fire that did not have to happen except for someones miss-guided beliefs and actions.

We feel that this law may cause someone thinking about ARSON and setting fires for whatever reason to pause and consider the consequences of their actions before setting a fire.

Existing law covers the victims of ARSON as victims, but the same is not said for the Fire/EMS personnel who respond to protect and save the victims.

I thank the committee for their time and attention to this important bill and ask that you vote favorable on Senate Bill 435.

I will now be glad to answer any questions, or my contact information is listed above and welcome any further inquiries you might have.