

JASON C. GALLION
Legislative District 35
Harford and Cecil Counties

Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee



Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 420
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3603 · 301-858-3603
800-492-7122 Ext. 3603
Fax 410-841-3115 · 301-858-3115
Jason.Gallion@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 8th, 2024

The Honorable William C. Smith Jr., Chair

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

RE: SB435 – Crimes of Arson – Prohibitions and Penalties

Position: **Favorable**

Dear Chairman Smith,

Simply put this legislation would create a felony charge for intentionally committing arson that causes an injury to a firefighter during the response to the fire or the efforts to suppress the fire. A violator is guilty of a felony and subject to imprisonment not exceeding 10 years.

You may recall the tragic events that took place in 2022 where three of our brave men and women lost their lives battling a vacant house fire that was later determined to be the result of arson and their deaths being ruled homicides.

Passage of this legislation will make it abundantly clear that when you decide to commit arson, you will be running the risk of an additional felony charge if a firefighter is then injured in the process of stopping that fire.

I respectfully ask the committee for a favorable report on SB 435.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason Gallion".

Jason Gallion

Senator – District 35