

MIKE MCKAY
Legislative District 1
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



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Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 30, 2024

RE: Fire/EMS Coalition Support for Senate Bill 435

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

The Fire/EMS Coalition would like to express their support for Senate Bill 435: Criminal Law – Crimes of Arson – Prohibitions and Penalties. The bill will establish that a person who intentionally commits an act of arson that injures a firefighter during the response to the fire or efforts to suppress the fire will be guilty of committing a felony and will face a sentence of imprisonment not exceeding 10 years. A sentence imposed upon individuals for the injury of a firefighter in response to an arsonist fire will be separate and consecutive to any imposed sentence for any crime based upon violation of the law.

The Fire/EMS Coalition supports Senate Bill 435 as it will be beneficial to all public safety volunteers in Maryland as this bill would help to reduce arsonist-related fires as well as ensure justice for firefighters affected by arson crime. The Coalition supports this bill for justice for firefighters and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike McKay".

Senator Mike McKay
Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland
Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties

Voting Organizations:

Maryland Fire Chief's Association (MFCA)
Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA)
State Fire Marshal (OSFM)
Maryland Fire Rescue Institute (MFRI)
Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System (MIEMMS)

**Metro Fire Chief's Association
Professional Firefighters of Maryland**

Our Mission Statement

The Maryland Fire/EMS Coalition unites Republicans and Democrats in support of fire/emergency services legislation that benefit all first responders. Becoming a member does not require taking positions on legislation; rather Coalition members are asked to offer support in a way that best benefits fire/emergency services in their respective Legislative Districts.