



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB599**  
Testimony by Delegate Andrew Pruski  
March 4, 2025 – Appropriations

**What the Bill Does:**

HB599 State Personnel - BWI Airport Fire and Rescue Department - Collective Bargaining and Arbitration Processes alters the collective bargaining process for uniformed fire employees of the Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport Fire and Rescue Department (BWI Fire/Rescue) by establishing binding arbitration in the event of an impasse in negotiations

**Why the Bill is Important:**

HB599 will clarify the bargaining process and formalize binding arbitration for the Fire and Rescue Department at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport. The fire fighters that serve at the BWI Airport are the only fire fighters in the State of Maryland that are state employees. They are essential to the day-to-day operations of the BWI airport and deserve to have the promise of binding arbitration if collective bargaining arrives at an impasse. So many other fire fighters throughout the state and across the county have this in place. It also ensures that their concerns regarding wages, safety, working conditions, and benefits are addressed.

This bill clarifies the bargaining process, the logistics, and the roles of the stakeholders, and provides security and a path forward for the ongoing relationship between the BWI fire fighters and the state.

**On behalf of the BWI fire fighters, I urge a favorable report on HB599.**