

MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

*Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel
-a 501(c)3 Organization*



Legislative Committee

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HB 76: Public Safety Officer – Performance of Duties – Death and Disability Benefits

I am Chief Robert Phillips, Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland State Firefighters Association (MSFA)

I wish to present testimony in support of **House Bill 76: Public Safety Officer – Performance of Duties – Death and Disability Benefits**

The MSFA is in support of this bill which covers several items.

First it adds the "9-1-1 Specialist" as defined to the list of employees that would be eligible to receive death benefits if the death is due to or a result of their duties.

Second it adds PTSD, ACUTE STRESS DISORDER and TRAUMA & STRESS RELATED DISORDER to the list of disabilities for which a member of a volunteer fire company or volunteer rescue squad can be diagnosed with and determined to be a result of the performance of the their duties.

The functions and duties of the "first responder" have been recognized to be physically demanding of the body for many years and we have set in place procedures to help in keeping our employees and volunteers healthy. The mental toll that being a first responder takes on our employees and volunteers

The MSFA would like to point out that some benefits will be paid out of the "widows and orphans fund" (Public Safety 7-202-203) and we don't see that the fund as represented in the "Fiscal and Policy Note". It would appear additional monies may be required to keep this fund fully solvent year to year.

The MSFA asks that you return a FAVORABLE vote on HB 76

Thank you and I would be glad to answer any questions you might have

Respectfully:

Robert Gillispie