

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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SB 419: Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Public Safety Volunteers

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

I wish to present testimony in support of **Senate Bill 419: Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Public Safety Volunteers**

The MSFA is in full support of this bill. The bill increases the income tax subtraction from 7 to 10 thousand dollars for qualified firefighters. The income tax subtraction comes with a fiscal note of 1.3 million dollars. Each year the volunteer firefighters from 350 stations across the state raise the funds to keep the stations open and staffed and purchase the trucks, engines and special service units along with the equipment to serve their respective communities. The cost to do this is between 65 and 70 million dollars each year. These are funds that do not have to come from the state, local or municipal government budgets. I think a 65-70 million dollar return for a 1.3 million dollar investment is a good return. The labor provided by these same volunteers saves the taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars added on top of what they raise in monies.

The MSFA asks that you return a FAVORABLE vote on SB 419

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

Respectfully:

Robert Phillips

