

# MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

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



## **Legislative Committee**

17 State Circle  
Annapolis MD, 21401  
Chair: Robert Phillips  
Email: rfcchief48@gmail.com  
Cell: 443-205-5030  
Office: 410-974-2222

## **SB 175: Public Safety - Corrugated Stainless-Steel Tubing for Fuel Gas Piping Systems - Requirements and Prohibitions**

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 favor of **Senate Bill 222: Public Safety - Corrugated Stainless-Steel Tubing for Fuel Gas Piping Systems - Requirements and Prohibitions**

The state of Maryland experienced the death of two first responders in building fires that had failures of corrugated stainless-steel tubing (CSST). The failures were attributed to high electrical discharge arcing causing a perforation of the tubing. The perforation allowed gas to escape the tubing and add fuel to the fire. In 2022 the state adopted legislation that required the use of “arc resistant” CSST to provide better protection to the gas system, by using better insulation available at the time. The 2022 bill did not address the sale of “non-arc resistant” CSST which is still on sale today. Since that time and through further testing it has been found that the electrical discharge the present insulation provides is lower than the voltages that can be encountered during a lightning strike in or near a building. There is a newer national standard LC1027, which tests to a higher coulomb discharge and better protects the CSST against electrical discharge perforation. This bill will accomplish two things, 1) requires all CSST being sold and used to meet the newer standard (LC1027) of insulation/protection, and 2) restrict the sale of non-compliant CSST materials in the state.

The MSFA asks that you return a FAVORABLE vote on SB175.

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