



The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain

House Bill 757

*Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program –
Funding*

Position: Informational
Committee: Environment and Transportation Committee
Date: February 26, 2025
From: Leslie Gray, Government Relations Officer

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) offers the following **INFORMATIONAL** testimony for HB 757.

Bill Summary

HB 757 seeks to increase MDE's oil transfer fee established in § 4-411 of the Environment Article from \$0.05 to \$0.09 per barrel of oil and requires MDE to transfer \$0.04 of revenue from the Maryland Oil Disaster Containment, Clean-Up and Contingency Fund to the Department of Health for the purpose of funding the Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program. \$0.01 per barrel equates to approximately \$0.9M annually.

Position Rationale

MDE supports providing programs to better ensure the health of firefighters in Maryland. However, the special fund that HB 757 seeks to use for Department of Health funding purposes is a special fund that MDE heavily relies on to fund the Oil Control Program, the Emergency Response Division, and other oil-related activities across the Department that protect the health and safety of Maryland's environment.

MDE has a proposal in Senate Bill 250 to increase the revenue in the Oil Fund to fill an approximate \$3.6M funding shortfall, which for the last fiscal year has required the program to employ cost saving measures to sustain basic functions. The required transfer of money out of the fund included in HB 757 would leave MDE with that funding deficit in FY26 and annually thereafter, necessitating a new request for resources from the General Fund.

Conclusion

While MDE supports firefighters and believes funding a cancer screening program is admirable, HB 757 would leave the Department with a significant deficit in FY26 and annually thereafter. MDE hopes this **INFORMATIONAL** testimony regarding HB 757 as amended is helpful. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

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