

HB757 - Delegate Kaiser - Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Anne Kaiser

Position: FAV

ANNE R. KAISER
Legislative District 14
Montgomery County

Health and Government
Operations Committee

House Chair
Joint Committee on Cybersecurity,
Information Technology and
Biotechnology



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB757: Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program - Funding
February 26, 2025**

Chair Korman and distinguished members of the Environment & Transportation Committee, it is my pleasure to come before you and offer testimony in favor of **House Bill 757**. This bill increases the funding for the Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Screening Technologies program by allowing the governor to allocate up to \$3,000,000 in the annual budget. As drafted, it allocates a portion of the Barrel Fee from Oil transferred in the state to the fund.

Firefighters have a 9% higher risk of being diagnosed with cancer and a 14% higher risk of dying from cancer than the general U.S. population; occupational cancer is the leading cause of line-of-duty deaths for firefighters. Since diagnosis at an early stage can significantly increase an individual's chance of survival for most types of cancer, ensuring firefighters can detect cancer early is critically important.

The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPTF) recommends a single-cancer screening procedure for breast, colon, colorectal, and lung cancers. However, according to the American Cancer Society, nearly 70% of cancer deaths have resulted from cancers for which there are no approved screening tests. Innovative multi-cancer early detection (MCED) tests, which are the focus of this legislation, can provide a solution. Relying on machine-learning to identify tumor proteins in a patient's DNA, research has shown these tests provide an effective way to detect cancers for which a USPTF-approved screening procedure doesn't exist.

Established in 2019, the Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program provides grants to local and volunteer fire departments to procure MCED tests. Given the "innovative" nature of these tests they are both expensive—MDH reported an average cost of \$192 per test in FY24—and often not covered by insurance. The grants are therefore necessary for ensuring these critical tests are accessible to firefighters. During FY24, \$100,000 was appropriated to the Program, and this money funded MCED tests for 513 firefighters—a small percentage of the total firefighters in the State. For some, test results showed elevated risks of developing, among others, stomach, liver, pancreatic, ovarian, and prostate cancers.

With the program's success over the past years, this bill aims to fund testing for more of Maryland's firefighters. We will work with the committee and stakeholders to find the best way to fund these tests. I urge a favorable report on **House Bill 757**.

HB0757-ET_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Dominic Butchko

Position: FAV



House Bill 757

Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program - Funding

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment & Transportation and
Health & Government Operations Committees

Date: February 26, 2025

From: Karrington Anderson and Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 757, which enhances funding for the Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program. HB 757 increases the State's per-barrel fee on oil transfers from 5 to 9 cents. Beginning in FY 2026, 4 cents of the collected fee will be directed to the Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program. This bill also increases the authorized annual budget allocation from \$500,000 to \$3,000,000 and permits up to 20% of these funds to be used by academic medical centers for data collection, analysis, and processing. These measures will significantly improve access to critical cancer screenings for firefighters across the state.

Counties fully support improving the health and safety of firefighters and all employees. Local governments have already taken substantial steps to provide extensive health coverage, including cancer screenings for firefighters. However, many jurisdictions with constrained budgets rely on grant programs to support these efforts. HB 757 offers another tool to help counties fulfill their commitment to firefighter health and safety without imposing additional unfunded mandates on local governments.

Counties recognize the critical contributions of firefighters, and the additional exposures and risks they assume as part of their duties. Those who employ career firefighters already offer various forms of cancer screening, but this legislation would help enhance and underpin those programs, and provide essential resources for expansion and improvement. Additionally, supporting academic medical centers in data collection and analysis will help refine screening methods, ensuring their effectiveness and clinical utility.

Counties have historically championed forward-thinking Firefighter and EMS incentives such as MACo's 2024 initiative bill, which enhanced firefighter recruitment and retention tools. Additionally, counties encourage participation in the Maryland Professional and Volunteer Firefighters Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program. Expanding the program's funding will help ensure that all firefighters—both career and volunteer—receive necessary cancer screenings, ultimately saving lives and supporting long-term public safety efforts.

For these reasons, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 757.

Frederick County Local 3666 Support Testimony HB 7

Uploaded by: Katie Nash

Position: FAV



Career Fire Fighters Association of Frederick County, MD Inc.
International Association of Fire Fighters Local 3666
Affiliated with:
Maryland State Professional Fire Fighters Association and The Central Maryland Labor Council / AFL-CIO



SUPPORT

HB0757: Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program - Funding

**Sponsored by: Delegates Kaiser, Holmes, McComas, Patterson, and Ruth
Environment and Transportation Committee
Hearing 2/26 at 1:00 p.m.**

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Committee,

I write as the President of the Career Firefighters Association of Frederick County, Maryland (IAFF Local 3666) - Frederick County's public employee organization that represents the over 600 men and women employed with the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue. I am writing to express my support for HB757.

This legislation, which increases funding for the Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program from \$500,000 to \$3,000,000 and authorizes the Maryland Secretary of Health to allocate up to 20% of program funds to support data collection and analysis by academic medical centers, is a critical next step for healthcare for Maryland's firefighters.

Firefighters face a significantly higher risk of cancer than the general public due to prolonged exposure to carcinogens in the line of duty. Cancer is now the leading cause of death among firefighters and while Maryland has taken important steps to address this crisis, additional funding is necessary. Passage of this legislation will:

- Expand access to innovative cancer screening technologies for firefighters across Maryland, including those in Frederick County;
- Improve early detection rates, ultimately leading to better treatment outcomes and saving lives; and,
- Allow for the collection and analysis of critical data through academic medical centers, ensuring that screening methods are continuously assessed and improved for maximum effectiveness.

We urge this committee to issue a favorable report on this bill and help ensure that Maryland remains a leader in protecting its fire service personnel from the devastating impact of occupational cancer.

Sincerely,

Stephen Jones, President, IAFF Local 3666

Contact: Katie Nash
katie@energyadvocacy.com
301.524.9142

Letter for HB757.pdf

Uploaded by: Mike McKay

Position: FAV

MIKE MCKAY
Legislative District 1
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



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Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Joint Committees
Administrative, Executive,
and Legislative Review
Children, Youth, and Families
Program Open Space and Agricultural
Land Preservation

Williamsport Office
2N Conococheque Street
Williamsport Town Hall
Williamsport, Maryland

January 24, 2025

RE: Fire/EMS Coalition Support for HB757

Dear Chairman Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Committee,

The Fire/EMS Coalition would like to express their support for House Bill 757:

Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program – Funding. This bill will require the Department of the Environment to transfer a certain amount of the license to transfer oil fee to the Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program. The Governor is now authorized to include \$3 million in the annual budget for the program and the Secretary of Health will be required to use the funds exclusively for the program.

The Fire/EMS Coalition supports House Bill 757 as it will allow for multiple funding sources to pay for cancer screenings of firefighters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike McKay'.

Senator Mike McKay
Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland
Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties

Voting Organizations:

Maryland Fire Chief's Association (MFCA)
Maryland State Firefighter's Association (MSFA)
State Fire Marshal (OSFM)
Maryland Fire Rescue Institute (MFRI)
Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System (MIEMMS)
Metro Fire Chief's Association
Professional Firefighters of Maryland

Our Mission Statement

The Maryland Fire/EMS Coalition unites Republicans and Democrats in support of fire/emergency services legislation that benefit all first responders. Becoming a member does not require taking positions on legislation; rather Coalition members are asked to offer support in a way that best benefits fire/emergency services in their respective Legislative Districts.

HB757 testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Robert Phillips

Position: FWA

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

HB 757: Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program – Funding

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

I wish to present testimony in support with amendments of **House Bill 757: Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program – Funding**

The MSFA is in support of this bill as we understand it to be amended. The MSFA along with the entire firefighting community understands the toll cancer has taken on our present and past membership. Just last year the MSFA lost one of our own James "Jimmy" Malone to a cancer. If he had available the cancer tests, maybe he would be here speaking to you today. The tests are available, but expensive. This bill will create a funding source to support the tests being given to identify cancers early for a better treatment outcome.

This bill as amended will provide further funding for the Maryland Oil Disaster Containment, Clean-Up and Contingency Fund as well as provide funds for the cancer screenings needed by our firefighters.

The MSFA asks that you return a FAVORABLE vote on HB757

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

Respectfully:

Robert Phillips

HB757_MAPDA_unf (2025).pdf

Uploaded by: Mike O'Halloran

Position: UNF



Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association
P.O. Box 711 ★ Annapolis, MD 21404
410-693-2226 ★ www.mapda.com

TO: House Environment & Transportation and Health & Government Operations Committees

FROM: Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association

DATE: February 26, 2025

RE: **HOUSE BILL 757** – Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program – Funding

On behalf of Maryland's energy marketers, MAPDA opposes HB757 as introduced.

As introduced, HB757 would increase the fee paid on a barrel of oil transferred in Maryland from 5 cents to 9 cents. The purpose of that fee is to fund the Maryland Oil Disaster Containment, Clean-Up and Contingency Fund (the Fund) within the Department of the Environment's Oil Control Program. It would take the 4-cent increase from the Fund and redirect it to the Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program (the Program). Finally, it would increase the discretionary funding for the Program from a maximum of \$500,000 to \$3,000,000 for the current and future fiscal years.

The industry agreed to a 4-cent increase to the transfer fee with the Department of the Environment as reflected in [SB250](#) – the Departmental bill to increase various fees, penalties, and funding mechanisms. This agreement was also a part of the Department's bill last year – [HB245](#) – which passed the House but failed in the Senate.

As noted above, the transfer fee goes to the Maryland Oil Disaster Containment, Clean-Up and Contingency Fund. The Fund was established for MDE "to use to develop equipment, personnel, and plans; for contingency actions to respond to, contain, clean-up, and remove from the land and waters of the state discharges of oil, petroleum products, and their by-products into, upon, or adjacent to the waters of the state; and restore natural resources damaged by discharges" (Environment Article, Section 4-411(f)).

For context, a 1 cent fee on a barrel of oil equals roughly \$1 million to the Fund. Historically, the fee has been 8 cents per barrel and included a 5-year sunset so the General Assembly and the Department could review its efficacy. It went to 5-cents for the current fiscal year when HB245 failed last year. The Department took a ~\$4M hit. Similarly, a 3 or 4 cent increase above the 9 cents in this year's SB250 would be a \$3-4 million fee increase on Maryland's distributors.

Feeding and fueling the economy through gas, coffee, food, heating oil and propane.

MAPDA is an association of convenience stores and energy distributors in Maryland, Delaware & the District of Columbia.



Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association
P.O. Box 711 ★ Annapolis, MD 21404
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The Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program is certainly a worthy cause. There is no disagreement there. However, the concern from the industry is the lack of nexus considering the Fund's statutory purpose and the precedent such a funding diversion would make. The transfer fee is not an appropriate funding source for the Program.

One suggestion would be to adopt an amendment that conforms HB757 to Senate Bill 849. SB849 is designated as a crossfile but as introduced, it does not include the funding swap contained in HB757.

Thank you for your consideration. Absent the aforementioned amendment, MAPDA opposes HB757 and requests an unfavorable committee report.

Feeding and fueling the economy through gas, coffee, food, heating oil and propane.

MAPDA is an association of convenience stores and energy distributors in Maryland, Delaware & the District of Columbia.

HB_757_MDE_Informational

Uploaded by: Jeremy Baker

Position: INFO



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.

Contact: Leslie Gray, Government Relations Officer

Email: leslie.gray@maryland.gov