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To: Members of the Finance Committee

From: Jim Pauli, Chair, Government Affairs Committee, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Section Council

Date: February 7, 2025

Subject: SB 373

Position: **Support** the use of arbitration to settle impasses in collective bargaining for State Personnel-BWI Airport Fire & Rescue Department

SB 373 seeks to modify the collective bargaining plan between the State and uniformed fire employees of the BWI Fire and Rescue Department to add the use of arbitration to resolve negotiation impasse.

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Section Council of the Maryland State Bar Association supports any ADR process to assist the parties to come to some resolution on the matters they deem important. We therefore support the use of ADR processes proposed by this bill.

HB 599 was a cross-filed bill referred to the House Appropriations Committee. To date no hearing has been set beyond the First Reading by Appropriations on 1/23/25. We urge a favorable Committee report and that it conform to HB 599.

The Section **supports SB 373 so far as it offers the use of Arbitration as part of the collective bargaining plan between the State and uniformed fire employees of the BWI Fire and Rescue Department.**

Should you have any questions, please contact James Pauli, Chairman of the Government Affairs Committee and Secretary of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section Council, jim.pauli.ijs@gmail.com

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