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Health and Government Operations  
Committee

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Public Health and  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB580 Terminology and Obsolete References – Maryland State Firefighters Association  
and Related Terms**

**Health and Government Operations Committee**

**February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Why We Need This Bill**

Since 1893, the Maryland State Firemen’s Association (MSFA) has been referred as the Maryland State *Firemen’s* Association. Last year, the membership voted to officially change its name to the Maryland State Firefighters Association. This decision marks a significant step in recognizing the vital contributions of both men *and* women who serve as First Responders across Maryland.

Maryland Law Codes continue to refer to the organization by its former name. **HB580** simply updates all instances in the Maryland Code to reflect the current and inclusive title, "Maryland State Firefighters Association."

This bill would also modify other terms such as “firemen” and “squad men” to encompass all Maryland First Responders. By adopting gender-neutral language, we ensure that anyone who risks their life to protect our communities is acknowledged with respect. Updating these references is more than a matter of semantics it is a necessary change to show the proper respect our First Responders deserve.

I respectfully ask the Committee for a favorable vote on **HB580**.