



Baltimore Fire Officers Association

Local No. 964

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CHARTERED FEBRUARY 20, 1948



February 14, 2025

Maryland House Judiciary Committee
Room 100, Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
ATTN: Chair Luke Clippinger and Vice Chair J. Sandy Bartlett

SENT VIA EMAIL

Subject: In support of a favorable report for House Bill 943 – Criminal Law – Crimes of Malicious or Fraudulent Burning

Chair Clippinger and Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 943, which seeks to enhance protections for firefighters by increasing penalties for crimes of malicious or fraudulent burning that result in their death or serious physical injury. This bill is a crucial step toward ensuring the safety of the brave men and women who risk their lives to protect our communities.

Firefighters face extreme dangers daily, often responding to fires that may have been intentionally set. By making it a felony offense to commit arson that leads to the death or injury of a firefighter, this legislation reinforces the gravity of such crimes and provides a stronger deterrent against reckless and malicious acts. The proposed penalties, including imprisonment of up to 10 years, reflect the severity of these offenses and appropriately hold perpetrators accountable.

Beyond its legal impact, HB 943 sends a clear message of support to our first responders. It affirms our commitment to their safety and well-being while ensuring that justice is served in cases where their lives are endangered due to criminal activity.

I urge you and your colleagues to return a favorable report on HB 943. Our firefighters deserve the full protection of the law as they work to keep our communities safe. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Letter to House Judiciary Committee
February 14, 2025
Page 2 of 2

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joshua L. Fannon', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Joshua L. Fannon, President
IAFF Local 964 Baltimore Fire Officers