

# MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

*Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel  
-a 501(c)3 Organization*



## **Legislative Committee**

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## **House Bill 444: Criminal Law – Interference With Critical Infrastructure Or A Public Safety Answering Point – Penalties**

My name is Dale Bowen and I am a member of the Legislative Committee for the Maryland State Firefighter's Association (MSFA).

I wish to present favorable testimony for **House Bill 444: Criminal Law – Interference With Critical Infrastructure Or A Public Safety Answering Point – Penalties**.

The MSFA is in full support of HB 444. Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) are vital as the first line of defense for the public. The state's 9-1-1 system operates primarily through PSAP's. Adding Critical Infrastructure will strengthen the existing law. This law also provides punishment for someone who "intends" to deny access to an authorized user or interrupt or impair the function of critical infrastructure or a PSAP.

PSAP's are also vital to our first responders. Interruption of service of a PSAP will delay our response to serious life threatening incidents as well as prevent communication between responding units.

Our citizen's safety relies on the efficiency of Public Safety Answering Points. It is for this reason that I ask for a favorable vote on House Bill 444.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

*Dale Bowen*