

# 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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## **HB 943: Criminal Law – Crimes of Malicious or Fraudulent Burning – Prohibitions and Penalties**

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

I wish to present testimony in favor of **House Bill 943: Criminal Law – Crimes of Malicious or Fraudulent Burning – Prohibitions and Penalties**

The MSFA is in full support of HB 943. Every time the emergency alarm goes off many first responders put their lives on the line for others. There are dangers always present no matter the type of call. When the call is for a fire the possibility and level of danger goes up. When the cause of the fire is ARSON, then we are putting lives in danger for a fire that did not have to happen except for someones miss-guided beliefs and actions.

We feel that this law may cause someone thinking about ARSON and setting fires for whatever reason to pause and consider the consequences of their actions before setting a fire.

Existing law covers the victims of ARSON as victims, but the same is not said for the Fire/EMS personnel who respond to protect and save the victims.

The MSFA asks that you return a FAVORABLE vote on HB943

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

Respectfully:

*Robert Phillips*

