



February 18, 2025

Luke Clippinger, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
100 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Position: FAVORABLE

Re: HB943 – Criminal Law – Crimes of Malicious or Fraudulent Burning - Prohibitions & Penalties

The Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland represents more than 10,000 active and retired professional fire fighters and emergency medical services personnel who proudly serve the citizens of the State of Maryland.

Fire fighters put their lives on the line every day protecting lives and property throughout our State. We fully support House Bill 943 which would add criminal penalties for crimes of fraudulent or malicious burning resulting in the serious injury or death of a fire fighter.

It is important to note that the crimes identified in this bill are criminal acts that are committed by a person willfully and maliciously. If, as a result, a fire fighter is seriously injured or killed there should be an additional criminal charge for such unlawful conduct.

This bill also allows for judicial discretion in the sentencing of a person found guilty where a judge determines the length of the sentence up to 10 years as well the ability to run the sentence concurrent with or consecutive to the underlying criminal conviction.

On behalf of the members of Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland, we strongly urge the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 943.

Submitted respectfully,

Jeffrey Buddle, President
Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland

The membership of the Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland includes 25 IAFF local affiliates from the following jurisdictions:

Federal: Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Fort George G. Meade, National Capital Federal Fire Fighters

State: Baltimore / Washington International Airport

Local: Annapolis City, Allegany County, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City (2 affiliates), Baltimore County, Carroll County, Cecil County, Charles County, Cumberland City, Frederick County, Garrett County, Hagerstown, Howard County, Montgomery County, Ocean City, Prince Georges County, Queen Annes County, Salisbury, Talbot County, Worchester County