

MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

-a 501(c)(3) organization

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel



Legislative Committee

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HB149: Fire Prevention – Assistant Fire Marshals, Residential Rental High–Rise Property Fire Safety Equipment, and Fire Alarm System Technicians

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

I wish to present testimony in FAVOR of **House Bill 149: Fire Prevention – Assistant Fire Marshals, Residential Rental High–Rise Property Fire Safety Equipment, and Fire Alarm System Technicians**

The MSFA is fully in favor of this bill. This bill allows the Office of the State Fire Marshal to set the minimum standards and qualifications of training for plan reviewers, fire inspectors, fire investigators, assistant fire marshals and fire marshals.

In addition to the above, this bill also requires the installation of sprinklers in a “residential rental high-rise” building that is undergoing a substantial renovation along with other life safety features to protect the occupants in times of emergencies.

This bill also charges the State Fire Prevention Commission with the task of defining certain occupations and the licensing qualifications to obtain and maintain a license as a Fire Alarm System Contractor and a Fire Alarm System Technician.

The MSFA believes that this bill will close some loopholes and raise the quality of work that is needed to be on this very essential business of building safety.

The MSFA asks that you return a **FAVORABLE** vote on **HB149**.

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

Respectfully

Robert Phillips

