



Written Testimony in Support of HB848

Public Safety – State Fire Prevention Code – Trash and Recyclable Materials

Position: Favorable

The Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland (PFFMD) supports House Bill 848. House Bill 848 simply aligns Maryland's Fire Prevention Code with the standards adopted by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 Life Safety Code regarding valet trash collection services. When adopting standards, the NFPA undertakes a rigorous review process. All NFPA standards are revised and updated every three to five years through a public schedule that includes final dates for each stage of the standards development process. A standard's cycle takes approximately two years to complete.

In adopting the 2024 Edition, the NFPA examined valet trash collection services and, for the first time, adopted standards around the service, which included requirements on container type, container size specifics, placement, and time limits for trash and recycling pickup.

However, when the State Fire Prevention Commission adopted the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, it deleted provisions on valet trash collection and added prohibiting language. Given the work of the NFPA on this issue, the PFFMD supports the work of the NFPA Bill and supports House Bill 848 to return Maryland to the national standards. We respectfully request a favorable vote on House Bill 848.

Submitted respectfully,

Jeffrey Buddle, President
Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland
International Association of Fire Fighters, Local A-19, AFL-CIO

The membership of the Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland includes 23 IAFF local affiliates from the following jurisdictions:

Federal: 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