

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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SB 579 – Counties – No-Cost Preventive Cancer Screenings for Volunteer Firefighters

The Maryland State Firefighters Association (MSFA) wishes to present testimony in support of **Senate Bill 579 – Counties – No-Cost Preventive Cancer Screenings for Volunteer Firefighters.**

The MSFA fully supports this legislation. Cancer remains one of the leading causes of death within the fire service community. Early detection through regular preventive screenings greatly improves long-term outcomes and survival rates for firefighters.

The State currently provides a cancer screening fund and grant program intended to help pay for cancer screenings for members of the fire service community. Unfortunately, volunteer fire departments have experienced significant challenges accessing this program. These difficulties have resulted in only one volunteer fire company receiving a grant during the past two application cycles. We are currently awaiting the results of the third grant cycle.

Senate Bill 579 would shift responsibility to local governments to provide these cancer screenings while allowing counties to apply for reimbursement through the State's cancer screening fund. This approach would streamline the process and greatly improve participation among volunteer fire departments in this critical preventive health program.

Providing consistent and accessible cancer screening for firefighters is an essential step toward protecting the health and safety of those who dedicate their lives to protecting our communities.

For these reasons, the MSFA respectfully requests a **favorable report on SB 579**.

Sincerely,

Dale Bowen

MSFA Legislative Committee