



House Bill 1156

***Calvert County – Length of Service Awards Program
– Benefits***

Calvert County Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

Date: March 10, 2026

From: Calvert County
Board of County Commissioners

The Honorable Mellisa Wells, Chair
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

RE: HB1156 – Calvert County – Length of Service Awards Program – Benefits

Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr and Committee Members:

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) writes in **support** of **House Bill 1156** and respectfully requests a **favorable** committee report.

Volunteer Fire-Rescue-EMS personnel are essential to Calvert County's public safety system. House Bill 1156 ensures that the death benefit provided through the County's Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) continues to offer meaningful support to the families of volunteers who have dedicated many years of service to protecting our community.

The bill increases the LOSAP death benefit from \$10,000 to \$14,000. It allows the benefit to be provided as either a death benefit or a burial benefit, at the beneficiary's option. These adjustments ensure the benefit remains meaningful and better reflects the rising cost of burial and funeral expenses.

The fiscal impact, estimated at approximately \$16,000 annually based on historical averages, is modest and supports the County's ongoing commitment to recognizing the service and sacrifice of volunteer emergency responders.

For Calvert County residents, supporting volunteer emergency personnel strengthens the County's public safety system and helps ensure that families of long-serving volunteers receive appropriate support in times of loss.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this legislation. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact County Administrator Linda Turner at 410-535-1600.