

MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

-a 501(c)(3) organization

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel



Legislative Committee

17 State circle

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HB 1041: Youth Camps - Structures in Flood Hazard Areas - Prohibition

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 1041: Youth Camps - Structures in Flood Hazard Areas - Prohibition**

The MSFA fully supports this bill. The fire service believes in the fact that “if you can predict it, you can prevent it”. The issues presented by this bill have already come to pass. We know what can and will happen and feel that we need to do anything and everything to prevent it from happening again.

This bill does not attempt to create new law; it only attempts to expand existing law to provide further protections to areas that are already covered and regulated. Everyone has read or heard of the tragedy that happened at a “youth camp” in Texas a few years ago. This could be reality here in our state. This bill could/would be a step in the right direction in preventing this from happening.

The bill would prevent the Maryland Department of Health from issuing or renewing a certificate to any program that would house a person in a building in a “FLOOD HAZARD AREA” as defined in this bill.

This bill protects the people who could be at risk by not allowing them to be placed in danger. With people not in danger if a catastrophic event occurs first responders would not have to risk their life performing a rescue.

The MSFA asks that you return a FAVORABLE report on **HB 1041**.

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

Respectfully

