

# 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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February 13, 2025

RE: SB 482

Senator William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chairman

Senator Jeff Waldstreicher  
Vice Chairman

Judicial Proceedings Committee.  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland State Firefighters Association Legislative Committee, I am writing in support of SB 482 – Criminal Law – Interference with Critical Infrastructure or a Public Safety Answering Point.

Our Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and 911 systems serve as the first line of defense in protecting and serving our communities, as well as supporting our first responders. These systems are critical to ensuring rapid emergency response and safeguarding public safety.

This legislation strengthens existing protections for critical infrastructure, including our 911 system. Last year, the General Assembly passed important legislation to protect Public Safety Answering Points from attacks. SB 482 builds upon that foundation by broadening protections and increasing penalties for those who intentionally interfere with or disrupt these essential systems.

As stated, the 911 system is our first line of defense in protecting the public. There must be serious consequences for intentionally disrupting this vital service.

The Maryland State Firefighters' Association respectfully urges a favorable report on SB 482.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Dale Bowen*

MSFA Legislative Committee