



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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HB 13 - Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Public Safety Employee Retirement Income (Supporting our 9-1-1 Specialists Act)

House Ways and Means Committee

January 29, 2026

SUPPORT

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President

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Madame Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 13. On behalf of 700 affiliated unions, I offer the following comments.

911 specialists are essential as they are the first point of contact in moments of emergency. Providing immediate assistance, they receive calls, collect critical information, and dispatch the appropriate personnel to the scene. Their work is demanding and high-stress, often leading to severe mental health challenges and widespread staffing shortages.

HB 13 recognizes that 911 specialists play an integral role in our public safety workforce by affording them with the same tax benefits as their law enforcement and emergency response counterparts.

A 2025 study done by the National Emergency Number Association found nearly 70% of telecommunicators report daily pre-shift stress with “reduced performance/productivity.” A lack of resources, benefits, and incentives create a significant shortage of well-trained and experienced 911 specialists and stifles our recruitment efforts.

HB 13 attracts people to these positions and increases retention rates. For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on HB 13.



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