

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 396: Public Safety Officer – Performance of Duties – Death Benefits

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 support of **Senate Bill 396: Public Safety Officer – Performance of Duties – Death Benefits**

The MSFA is in full support of this bill. This bill will add the classification of "9-1-1 specialist" to a list of benefits that are now available to other first responders. This bill also includes language that would allow death benefits to be made payable to first responders for death due to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Acute Stress Disorder or a Trauma and Stress related Disorder if diagnosed by certain qualified people and the cause of the disorder was from the performance of their normal duties.

Mental health issues are a leading cause of death to the first responders today and we see this being a bigger issue in the future. Being able to prevent it will be a step forward but for now we need to assist those who have already been affected.

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

Respectfully:

Robert Phillips

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