




HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

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CHRISTINE M. UHLHORN, FIRE CHIEF • CALVIN BALL, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: Lonnie R. Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

From: Christine M. Uhlhorn 
Fire Chief

Date: August 27, 2019

Subject: Testimony on Council Bill No. 43-2019

Summary:

The Administration has filed legislation to amend the property tax credit for Public Safety Officers that live in Howard County that was enabled during the session of the General Assembly through HB 477. The proposed amendment would provide a property tax credit of \$2,500 per fiscal year to the home that a volunteer EMT resides in. The amendment to this property tax credit would extend the tax credit to volunteer emergency medical technicians (EMTs) that reside within Howard County.

There are 10 volunteer EMTs that currently reside within Howard County. These individuals freely offer their time and expertise to keep the citizens, residents, and visitors of Howard County safe. The selflessness of these people warrants the opportunity for them to be able to live where they volunteer. This tax credit amendment will provide that opportunity for many that currently serve our County, as well as assist in the recruitment efforts of future volunteer EMTs.

By enabling more of our volunteer EMTs to live in Howard County, we will continue to build on the trust our community already has with our public safety agencies at minimal cost to tax payers; as well as continue to foster an environment where individuals can live, work, and play.

Fiscal Impact:

Based on the number of volunteer EMTs currently living in the County, we believe that the fiscal impact to the County in FY 2020 will be \$25,000. These numbers are subject to change as applications are actualized.