

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

SPECIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Lansdowne, Maryland

February 9, 1997

The special meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order by President Stephan D. Cox at 12 noon. Assistant Chaplain Taugher gave the invocation and led the pledge to the flag. President Cox offered some opening remarks and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss legislative issues and to distribute the new edition of the Fire Laws of Maryland. He introduced guests in attendance and recognized the following Past Presidents who were in attendance: E. F. Preston, 74-75; L. T. King, 85-86; C. D. Carpenter, 86-87; R. P. Cumberland, 87-88; R. H. Shimer, 88-89; B. J. Smith, 91-92; R. L. Yinger, 94-95; and G. A. Cross, 95-96. The President turned the meeting over to Chairman Richard Brooks of the Executive Committee.

Chairman Brooks restated the purpose of the meeting and called upon Vice Chairman Bernie Smith of the Legislative Committee to proceed. The following report was presented:

SB-390 - State Fire Marshal Gabriele discussed the bill, emphasizing the importance of line 41 which states the work "agency." He continued by giving a history of the bill process and meeting with Secretary Robinson of the Corrections Department in July reference the proposed move. His main concern is to keep the fire focus intact. The bill is department legislation and not administration. He discussed the positives verses negatives of the move. Presently there is a \$31M deficit in correctional services which the FMO will have to share this cost. He again stressed the change in wording from "part of" to "agency" of the State Police. The FM will report directly to the Superintendent of the State Police. He then spoke on the different entitlements reference retirement system, job specs, and salaries. There was concern about not reviewing the draft bill back in October with the fire service. This was Secretary Robinson's decision. Fred Cross asked about the negatives. Chip Jewell asked about the police powers. Attorney Powell questioned the identity of FMO to proposed regulations under COMAR. Fire Marshal Gabriele assured everyone of the above items. He then read a letter from Col. Mitchell of November, 96 for the record which referenced the move to the State Police (copy to Exec. Comm. Members and on file.) President Cox relayed that he had met with Col. Mitchell in November and the Governor in December during which both pledged full support to the fire service. Fred Cross expressed concerns about years down the road with new personnel in these positions. Attorney Powell stated that the letter from Col. Mitchell contained certain assurances. Craig Coleman raised concern about the open dialogue between FMO and the Maryland State Firemen's Association. Chip Jewell asked about the Fire Prevention Commission, which was answered as they would stay the same with voluntary participation. Fire Marshal Gabriele then reviewed the changes in the bill line by line (detailed copy on file.) Chip Jewell asked about the Secretary of the State Police, which was explained as being the Superintendent. Richard Brooks asked about the Explosives Advisory Board being under the State Police and not the FMO. Lee Sachs spoke about lines 30-32 on page 10, and remarked that this section may not be necessary. This will be resolved via the legislative process. Richard Brooks again spoke on the integrity of the FMO remaining intact. Bob Shimer commented on integrity, interests of the fire service #1 issue, special interest items within staff, law enforcement powers, retirement system, investigators do not have the necessary tools to complete their job, and the bomb squad is OK. Bob Thomas stated the language of lines 30-32 would be run past the AG Office. Richard Brooks asked about the feeling of personnel after the statewide meeting? Fire Marshal Gabriele stated that he did not know. Don Mooney concerned what does this do for the fire service not personnel issues within the FMO. Lt.

**Special Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
February 9, 1997 - Page 2**

Col. Harmel stated that Col. Mitchell was unable to attend today, but assured everyone that their was no hidden agendas, remain FMO identity, and they are looking forward to the partnership movement. Fire Marshal Gabriele thanked the State Police for their presence, support already given, and asked for the support of the M.S.F.A. for SB-390. The following motion was made by Fred Cross and seconded by Chip Jewell:

MOTION: That the M.S.F.A., for the intent of the bill, support SB-390 to transfer the State Fire Marshal's Office to the Maryland State Police. Voice vote taken, unanimous, Motion Passed.

HB-440 - EMS Chair Wills and Vice Chair Sachs reported that the bill was exactly as proposed at our last meetings and that the two amendment changes made were accepted by MIEMSS. They presented four wording changes, which were for clarification only, but because of the timing would have to be handled by amendments. Dr. Bass of MIEMSS agreed with the proposed changes and it was reported that they would be presented. The EMS Committee recommends support of the proposed bill. The following motion was made by P. Sterling and seconded by G. Curfman:

MOTION: To support the recommendation of the EMS Committee to support HB-440 with the changes as presented. Voice vote taken, unanimous, Motion Passed.

SB-660 - Immunity to provide care with DNR Certificate, discussion, EMS Committee perfectly satisfactory, recommends support. Gene Curfman asked about MIEMSS's position? Dr. Bass stated he had no problems. Attorney Powell stated the bill allows providers to remove themselves from family disputes.

Chairman Wills then commented about accreditation of training facilities and Lee Sachs needs the information asked of the Executive Committee members from the January meeting. The EMS Committee requested MIEMSS to hold up the document. Dr. Bass stated that this is a working committee to accredit training facilities, diverse points of view, re-draft of document, not the intent to harm training anywhere.

HB-786 - Lee Sachs reported that the intent is good, however, needs amending.

SB-168 - Bernie Smith reported that it has been difficult to meet with the union reference this bill. Feeling is that the management of fire ground belongs within the local jurisdiction.

JR-5 - No discussion.

SB-77 - No discussion.

SB-124 - Testified in support with amendments.

SB-220 - Maintenance of effort percentage made relates to percentage received.

SB 582 - Housekeeping.

HB-209 - Frederick County bill.

HB-621 - No discussion.

HB-786 - No discussion.

HB-836 - Companion bill to SB-200, hearing favorable.

HB-848 - No discussion.

SB-4 - Firemen's Rule, to abolish immunity to sue.

February 9, 1997 - Page 3

The meeting was turned back to President Cox. Closing remarks were made that FD tags will start to be issued again, John Hogle related that the podium from the Volunteer Firefighter's Room has been rescued along with the Hall of Fame Plaque. Bill Cooke announced the availability of tickets for the Timonium Dinner Theatre event to be held on March 21. President Cox and President Cross of the Maryland Fire Chief's Association spoke on the recent problems with solicitations being made in Maryland. Assistant Chaplain Taugher dismissed the group with prayer. There being no further business to come before the Executive Committee the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Office of the Secretary
Leonard T. King
J. Edward Cross
Robert Jacobs
Gene Worthington