

First Responders

Senate Bill 108 (2024) – Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Police Auxiliary and Reserve

Volunteers increased the income tax deduction for police auxiliaries and reserve volunteers from \$5,000 to match the deduction for volunteer fire, rescue, and EMS members of \$7,000. This bill also ensures that any increases in the future for our public safety volunteers will be uniform.

Senate Bill 1101 (2024) – Higher Education – Maryland Police Officers and Probation Agents

Scholarship Program – Alterations allowed students who receive financial aid from the Maryland Police Officers and Probation Agents Scholarship Program to use their award at a community college in addition to the State’s public four-year institutions. Senator Bailey worked with his colleagues to change this law after learning that only about \$17,000 of the \$8.5 million set aside for this program had been used.

Senate Bill 61 (2023) – Property Tax Credit – Public Safety Officer gave local governments the authority to determine which public safety officers are eligible for local property tax credits in their jurisdiction and repealed an existing \$2,500 limit on the credit.

Senate Bill 292 (2019) – Property Tax Credit – Public Safety Officer – Definition allowed volunteer emergency medical technicians to be defined as public safety officers so that they may be eligible recipients for local property tax credits.

House Bill 1178 (2023) – Calvert County – Length of Service Award Program – Benefits altered the County’s Length of Service Award Program for fire, rescue, and emergency medical services volunteers by allowing the County to increase the program’s benefit amount by an amount equal to the percentage of the cost-of-living increase authorized for county employees and raising the death and burial benefits available to qualifying volunteers under the program.

Senate Bill 947 (2019) – Calvert County – Correctional Officers’ Bill of Rights established the rights of a correctional officer relating to the employment, investigation, and discipline of correctional officers in Calvert County.

Senate Bill 957 (2019) – Calvert County – Office of the Sheriff – Correctional Deputies authorized the Sheriff of Calvert County to appoint correctional deputies who serve under the direction of the Sheriff and adds “correctional deputies” to statutory provisions regarding deputy sheriffs in Calvert County.

Veterans

Senate Bill 974 (2023) – State-Owned Nursing Homes – Deficiencies, Citations, and Fines – Contractor

Reporting Requirements was emergency legislation that required increased reporting of deficiencies cited and enforcement actions imposed at State-owned nursing facilities. This bill was introduced in response to the recent reports of mistreatment of veterans at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. This bill was not intended to be a substitute for action to fix what went wrong at Charlotte Hall but rather to ensure that major problems cannot be kept from the oversight of the General Assembly. These

provisions were further clarified by **Senate Bill 712 (2024) – State-Owned Nursing Homes – Deficiencies, Citations, and Fines – Reporting Requirements.**

Senate Bill 1178 (2024) – Higher Education – Douglas J. J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship – Repeal of Service Terminal Date removed vague language in the statute governing the Douglas J. J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship that was denying some veterans of these conflicts and their families access to this scholarship.

Senate Bill 521 (2019) – Veteran Suicide Prevention – Comprehensive Action Plan – Senator Bailey was proud to work with Secretary Owings of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs and Senator Smith on this bi-partisan legislation that increases the accessibility of professional veteran health services with the hope to prevent suicides. This bill raises awareness and will provide extensive resources to our veterans who desperately need our help.