

Eldon R. Mickel
Past President
Central District Vol. Fireman's Ass.

Chief Emeritus Shawnee Valley Vol. Fire Co.
Member since 1976

Charter Member of Bedford County Firemen's Ass.

The Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee,

The CDVFA fall board meeting was 10/3/2021 at East Freedom Fire Co. East Freedom Pa. at that meeting the membership voted me to speak for the CDVFA.. Speaking for them, there previous stance has changed to a neutral position on the legislation Senate Bill 698. The CDVFA is asking that a opt out language or provision be put in place so an organization that does not feel the Authority is helping can ask to opt out with 60 days notice. The CDVFA is hesitant to back the bill with out more study and discussion there have been numerous opinions expressed and the organization feels it want yo make the best decision for the 26 counties of members that belong. In doing some of my research on this bill I have come to understand Maryland has a similar bill that is working fine. I have not had the chance to read it yet or form any opinion as to weather they are similar as a representative for the CDVFA I encourage more exchange of information and input of ideas.

As a member of Shawnee Valley Vol. Fire Co. I believe the bill has merit to help the smaller departments struggling to keep operating especially since the pandemic. The thing that bothers me though is the make up of a County wide authority and the funding of the authority. In Bedford County very few municipal officers have anything to do with a fire dept. or ambulance association thus creating a information void. I would also ask why the wording that excludes firefighters as employees but says nothing about ambulance personnel. Is the authority going to actually run the Fire Dept's and Ambulance Associations? As you can see I We have way more questions than answers at this time.

Respectively Submitted,
Eldon R. Mickel