

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 586 (Charles County Delegation)  
Commerce and Government Matters

Referred to Judicial Proceedings

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**Charles County - Board of Fire and Rescue Commissioners - Authority**

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This amended bill authorizes the Charles County Board of Fire and Rescue Commissioners to swear witnesses and take sworn testimony; to hire a clerical or administrative assistant; and to require each county fire department and rescue squad to submit financial records or minutes of meetings. Any individual who refuses to submit the required information or deliberately violates any other provision may be removed or barred from office.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. Overall county expenditures would not be affected, as discussed below.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Local Effect:** Currently, Charles County collects approximately \$4.4 million from a fire tax imposed on real property in the county. These proceeds are distributed, as determined by the Board of Fire and Rescue Commissioners, to all the fire departments and rescue squads in the county. It is expected that if the Board of Fire and Rescue Commissioners hires a clerical or administrative assistant, any additional costs would be handled with existing fire tax proceeds. Although these costs cannot be determined beforehand, it is assumed that they would be minimal.

In addition, the Board of Fire and Rescue Commissioners could collect financial records or minutes of meetings and conduct appeals with existing resources.

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**Information Source(s):** Charles County, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 1996

ncs Revised - House Third Reader - March 18, 1996

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Analysis by: Thomas Himler

Direct Inquiries to:

Reviewed by: John Rixey

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710