

SENATE BILL 154

Unofficial Copy
E4

2000 Regular Session
(01r0046)

ENROLLED BILL

-- Budget and Taxation/Environmental Matters --

Introduced by **Chairman, Budget and Taxation Committee (Departmental -
Md. Inst. for Emer. Medical Serv. Sys.)**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this
____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, ____ M.

President.

CHAPTER 240

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations Fund -- Source of Funds**
3 **and Permissible Uses**
4 **Volunteer Company Assistance Fund**

5 FOR the purpose of ~~increasing the motor vehicle registration fee surcharge for certain~~
6 ~~motor vehicles to fund the Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations~~
7 ~~Fund; providing for distribution of the surcharge; repealing obsolete provisions;~~
8 ~~establishing the Low Interest Revolving Loan Fund to be administered by the~~
9 ~~Maryland State Firemen's Association; requiring the Association to perform~~
10 ~~certain duties; specifying the requirements for submitting a loan request to the~~
11 ~~Association; requiring the Board of Public Works to approve certain loan~~
12 ~~requests; requiring the Association to submit a certain annual report;~~
13 ~~authorizing the Comptroller to audit the Association; repealing certain~~
14 ~~provisions concerning the Emergency Assistance Trust Fund; establishing the~~
15 ~~Volunteer Company Assistance Fund as a continuing, nonlapsing fund;~~

1 establishing the Emergency Assistance Trust Account and the Low Interest
2 Revolving Loan Account in the Fund; providing for the purposes and uses of the
3 Emergency Assistance Trust Account and the Low Interest Revolving Loan
4 Account; providing for the administration of the Fund; providing certain sources
5 of revenue for the Fund; authorizing the Board of Public Works to authorize use
6 of the Accounts; requiring certain volunteer ambulance, fire, or rescue
7 companies to submit a request for certain financial assistance containing
8 certain information to the Maryland State Firemen's Association; requiring
9 certain volunteer companies to submit certain certification of a certain denial
10 for local financial assistance with an application for funding under the
11 Emergency Assistance Trust Account; requiring certain volunteer companies to
12 provide certain matching funds to receive funds from the Emergency Assistance
13 Trust Account under certain circumstances; providing for an appeals procedure
14 under the Emergency Assistance Trust Account if the Maryland State Firemen's
15 Association denies or fails to take action on a certain request; providing for the
16 composition of the appeals panel; requiring the Maryland State Firemen's
17 Association or the appeals panel to transmit a certain recommendation and
18 certain documentation to the Department of Budget and Management;
19 requiring the Department of Budget and Management to forward a certain
20 request to the Department of Legislative Services; requiring the Department of
21 Legislative Services to review a certain request; requiring the Department of
22 Budget and Management to adopt certain regulations; authorizing the
23 Comptroller to audit the finances of the Maryland State Firemen's Association
24 for a certain purpose; requiring certain volunteer companies to forward certain
25 statements and documents to the Department of Budget and Management and
26 the Legislative Auditor in a certain manner; requiring the Legislative Auditor to
27 submit certain reports to the Department of Budget and Management and the
28 Joint Audit Committee of the General Assembly in a certain manner;
29 authorizing the Governor to include a certain amount in the State budget to be
30 appropriated to and administered by the Maryland State Firemen's Association
31 for certain purposes; requiring the Maryland State Firemen's Association to
32 develop certain criteria for a specified purpose; requiring the Association to
33 submit a certain annual report containing certain information in a certain
34 manner to the Department of Budget and Management; requiring the
35 Department of Budget and Management to review a certain report; requiring
36 the Department of Budget and Management to report to certain committees of
37 the General Assembly concerning a certain report; providing that money in the
38 Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations Fund shall be used for a
39 certain Low Interest Revolving Loan Account under a certain Volunteer
40 Company Assistance Fund; defining certain terms; repealing a certain obsolete
41 provision; and generally relating to the Maryland Emergency Medical System
42 Operations Fund Volunteer Company Assistance Fund.

43 ~~BY adding to~~
44 ~~Article 38A—Fires and Investigations~~
45 ~~Section 47A through 47E, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Low Interest~~
46 ~~Revolving Loan Fund"~~
47 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

1 ~~(1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)~~

2 BY repealing

3 Article 38A - Fires and Investigations

4 Section 46A through 46C, inclusive, and the subtitle "Volunteer Company

5 Emergency Trust Fund"

6 Annotated Code of Maryland

7 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

8 BY adding to

9 Article 38A - Fires and Investigations

10 Section 46 through 46H, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Volunteer

11 Company Assistance Fund"

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

15 Article - Transportation

16 Section ~~13-954~~ and 13-955

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (1999 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
20 MARYLAND, That Section(s) 46A through 46C, inclusive, and the subtitle "Volunteer
21 Company Emergency Trust Fund" of Article 38A - Fires and Investigations of the
22 Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland
24 read as follows:

25 **Article 38A - Fires and Investigations**

26 ~~LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN FUND~~

27 ~~47A.~~

28 ~~(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS~~
29 ~~INDICATED:~~

30 ~~(B) "ASSOCIATION" MEANS THE MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION.~~

31 ~~(C) "BOARD" MEANS THE LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN FUND BOARD.~~

32 ~~(D) "FUND" MEANS THE LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN FUND.~~

1 47B.

2 (A) (1) ~~THERE IS A LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN FUND.~~

3 (2) ~~THE FUND SHALL BE USED TO PROVIDE LOANS TO VOLUNTEER~~
4 ~~AMBULANCE, FIRE, AND RESCUE COMPANIES TO ASSIST WITH UP TO 75% OF THE~~
5 ~~COST OF:~~

6 (I) ~~PURCHASING OR REFURBISHING APPARATUS; AND~~

7 (II) ~~UPGRADING OR REPLACING FACILITIES NEEDED TO STORE~~
8 ~~EQUIPMENT.~~

9 (B) ~~THE MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION SHALL ADMINISTER THE~~
10 ~~FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.~~

11 (C) (1) ~~THE FUND IS A CONTINUING, NONLAPSING FUND WHICH IS NOT~~
12 ~~SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.~~

13 (2) ~~THE TREASURER SHALL SEPARATELY HOLD AND THE COMPTROLLER~~
14 ~~SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.~~

15 (3) ~~ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE PAID INTO~~
16 ~~THE FUND.~~

17 47C.

18 (A) ~~FOR THE PURPOSE OF GRANTING LOANS UNDER § 47B OF THIS SUBTITLE,~~
19 ~~THE ASSOCIATION SHALL:~~

20 (1) ~~DEVELOP LOAN CRITERIA;~~

21 (2) ~~DEVELOP TERMS OF A LOAN, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF~~
22 ~~INTEREST RATES;~~

23 (3) ~~ESTABLISH A BOARD; AND~~

24 (4) ~~RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS THE APPROVAL OR~~
25 ~~DENIAL OF LOANS.~~

26 (B) ~~A VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE, FIRE, OR RESCUE COMPANY MAY SUBMIT A~~
27 ~~LOAN REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE ASSOCIATION.~~

28 (C) ~~EACH LOAN REQUEST SHALL INCLUDE:~~

29 (1) ~~A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF THE REASONS FOR THE REQUEST;~~

30 (2) ~~FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE 2 FISCAL YEARS IMMEDIATELY~~
31 ~~PRIOR TO THE FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH THE APPLICATION IS MADE; AND~~

1 (3) ~~THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT, IF AN AUDIT WAS~~
2 ~~CONDUCTED.~~

3 ~~47D.~~

4 (A) (1) ~~THE BOARD ESTABLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATION UNDER § 47C OF~~
5 ~~THIS SUBTITLE SHALL REVIEW EACH LOAN REQUEST RECEIVED BY A VOLUNTEER~~
6 ~~AMBULANCE, FIRE, OR RESCUE COMPANY IN ACCORDANCE WITH CRITERIA~~
7 ~~DEVELOPED UNDER § 47C OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

8 (2) ~~THE BOARD SHALL RECOMMEND TO THE ASSOCIATION THE~~
9 ~~APPROVAL OR REJECTION OF EACH LOAN REQUEST.~~

10 (3) (1) ~~THE ASSOCIATION MAY AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE~~
11 ~~BOARD'S RECOMMENDATION.~~

12 (II) ~~IF THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE ASSOCIATION THAT A~~
13 ~~LOAN REQUEST BE REJECTED AND THE ASSOCIATION AGREES, THE ASSOCIATION~~
14 ~~SHALL PROMPTLY SEND A WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE, FIRE,~~
15 ~~OR RESCUE COMPANY INFORMING THE COMPANY THAT THE REQUEST HAS BEEN~~
16 ~~REJECTED.~~

17 (III) ~~IF THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE ASSOCIATION THAT A~~
18 ~~LOAN REQUEST BE APPROVED AND THE ASSOCIATION AGREES, THE ASSOCIATION~~
19 ~~SHALL SUBMIT THE LOAN REQUEST TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR~~
20 ~~APPROVAL.~~

21 (B) ~~UPON FINAL APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE LOAN~~
22 ~~SHALL BE MADE TO THE REQUESTING VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE, FIRE, OR RESCUE~~
23 ~~COMPANY.~~

24 ~~47E.~~

25 (A) ~~THE ASSOCIATION SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE~~
26 ~~DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT AND TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC~~
27 ~~WORKS TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:~~

28 (1) ~~THE NUMBER OF LOANS MADE DURING THE FISCAL YEAR;~~

29 (2) ~~THE ENTITIES THAT RECEIVED A LOAN AND THE AMOUNT OF THE~~
30 ~~LOAN DURING THE FISCAL YEAR; AND~~

31 (3) ~~THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE FOR GRANTING EACH LOAN DURING THE~~
32 ~~FISCAL YEAR.~~

33 (B) ~~THE REPORT SHALL BE DUE ON AUGUST 30 OF EACH FISCAL YEAR.~~

VOLUNTEER COMPANY ASSISTANCE FUND

2 46.

3 (A) (1) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
4 INDICATED.

5 (2) "ASSOCIATION" MEANS THE MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S
6 ASSOCIATION.

7 (3) "BOARD" MEANS THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS.

8 (4) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND
9 MANAGEMENT.

10 (5) "VOLUNTEER COMPANY" MEANS A VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE, FIRE,
11 OR RESCUE COMPANY LOCATED IN THE STATE.

12 (B) THERE IS A VOLUNTEER COMPANY ASSISTANCE FUND.

13 (C) THE VOLUNTEER COMPANY ASSISTANCE FUND IS COMPRISED OF:

14 (1) THE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TRUST ACCOUNT; AND

15 (2) THE LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT.

16 (D) (1) THE FUND IS A CONTINUING, NONLAPSING FUND WHICH IS NOT
17 SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

18 (2) THE TREASURER SHALL SEPARATELY HOLD AND THE COMPTROLLER
19 SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

20 (3) ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE PAID INTO
21 THE FUND.

22 (4) AMOUNTS RECEIVED AS REPAYMENTS ON LOANS FROM THE
23 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TRUST ACCOUNT OR THE LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN
24 ACCOUNT SHALL BE PLACED IN THE RESPECTIVE ACCOUNT AND MADE AVAILABLE
25 TO FUND REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

26 (E) THE DEPARTMENT, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD, SHALL ADOPT
27 REGULATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 10, SUBTITLE 1 OF THE STATE
28 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE NECESSARY TO ADMINISTER THE FUND.

29 46A.

30 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "ACCOUNT" MEANS THE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
31 TRUST ACCOUNT.

32 (B) (1) THERE IS AN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TRUST ACCOUNT.

1 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE ACCOUNT IS TO ASSURE ADEQUATE FIRE
2 PROTECTION AND RESCUE SERVICES FOR THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE.

3 (C) AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE ASSOCIATION, THE GOVERNOR IS
4 AUTHORIZED TO INCLUDE AN AMOUNT IN THE STATE BUDGET EACH YEAR FOR THE
5 PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION.

6 (D) A GRANT OR LOAN AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE USED ONLY
7 FOR:

8 (1) APPARATUS EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING ELEVATED EQUIPMENT,
9 PUMPERS, TANKERS, LADDER TRUCKS, AMBULANCES, RESCUE VEHICLES, OR OTHER
10 LARGE EQUIPMENT USED FOR FIRE FIGHTING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES;

11 (2) COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT;

12 (3) PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING HELMETS, TURNOUT COATS
13 AND PANTS, BOOTS, EYESHIELDS, GLOVES, AND SELF-CONTAINED RESPIRATORY
14 PROTECTION UNITS;

15 (4) ANY OTHER EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE ORDINARY
16 FUNCTIONS OF SUPPORTING FIRE FIGHTING AND RESCUE ACTIVITIES; OR

17 (5) FACILITIES USED TO HOUSE FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT,
18 AMBULANCES, AND RESCUE VEHICLES.

19 (E) (1) (I) A VOLUNTEER COMPANY RECEIVING FUNDS UNDER THIS
20 SECTION SHALL PROVIDE AT LEAST A 30% MATCHING DOLLAR AMOUNT FOR GRANTS
21 OR LOANS.

22 (II) IF A VOLUNTEER COMPANY CANNOT REASONABLY PROVIDE
23 THE REQUIRED DOLLAR MATCH PRIOR TO DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS, THE BOARD
24 MAY WAIVE THAT REQUIREMENT OR PROVIDE FOR REPAYMENT OF THE MATCHING
25 DOLLAR AMOUNT WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME NOT TO EXCEED 18
26 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF PURCHASE OF THE EQUIPMENT OR FACILITIES.

27 (2) (I) FUNDS TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED MATCHING DOLLAR
28 AMOUNT MAY INCLUDE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

29 (II) A LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAY NOT REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF
30 MONEY THAT THE VOLUNTEER COMPANY WOULD OTHERWISE BE ENTITLED TO
31 RECEIVE FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF STATE FINANCIAL
32 ASSISTANCE PROVIDED UNDER THIS ACCOUNT.

33 (F) THE BOARD MAY AWARD EITHER A GRANT OR A LOAN OR A COMBINATION
34 OF BOTH FROM THE ACCOUNT, AFTER A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE
35 DEPARTMENT, IF:

1 (1) (I) AN ACT OF GOD OR OTHER UNFORESEEN EVENT HAS
2 SUBSTANTIALLY IMPAIRED THE ABILITY OF A VOLUNTEER COMPANY TO PROVIDE
3 ADEQUATE AND SAFE SERVICE; OR

4 (II) THE VOLUNTEER COMPANY IS UNABLE TO MAINTAIN THE
5 MINIMUM LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE FOR ADEQUATE AND SAFE SERVICE
6 ESTABLISHED BY STANDARDS OF THE ASSOCIATION BECAUSE OF A DEMONSTRATED
7 LACK OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES; AND

8 (2) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE VOLUNTEER COMPANY RECEIVING
9 ASSISTANCE HAVE EXECUTED AN AGREEMENT THAT:

10 (I) PROVIDES THAT FUNDS WILL BE USED AS REPRESENTED IN
11 THE REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO THE BOARD; AND

12 (II) GRANTS TO THE STATE SECURITY IN THE EQUIPMENT OR
13 FACILITIES ACQUIRED WITH THE FUNDS AND IN THE PROCEEDS OF THAT
14 EQUIPMENT OR THOSE FACILITIES AS IS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD TO BE
15 APPROPRIATE AND ADEQUATE.

16 (G) A GRANT OR LOAN AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT:

17 (1) BE USED TO REFINANCE ANY DEBT OR OTHER OBLIGATION OF A
18 VOLUNTEER COMPANY INCURRED BEFORE JULY 1, 1982; OR

19 (2) BE EXPENDED FOR REPLACEMENT OR REPAIR OF ELIGIBLE ITEMS
20 TO THE EXTENT THAT INSURANCE PROCEEDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE
21 PURPOSES.

22 (H) THE BOARD MAY NOT APPROVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE
23 ACCOUNT IF A VOLUNTEER COMPANY HAS NOT MADE A GOOD FAITH EFFORT TO
24 OBTAIN FUNDS FROM ITS LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

25 46B.

26 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO THE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TRUST
27 ACCOUNT.

28 (B) (1) A VOLUNTEER COMPANY SHALL SUBMIT ALL REQUESTS FOR
29 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE TO THE ASSOCIATION FOR
30 APPROVAL BY A BOARD OF REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ASSOCIATION'S
31 BYLAWS.

32 (2) ALL REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SHALL INCLUDE:

33 (1) FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE 2 FISCAL YEARS
34 IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH THE APPLICATION IS MADE;
35 AND

1 (II) THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, IF AN AUDIT WAS
2 CONDUCTED.

3 (3) FOR AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING UNDER THE EMERGENCY
4 ASSISTANCE TRUST ACCOUNT, A VOLUNTEER COMPANY SHALL CERTIFY THAT THE
5 VOLUNTEER COMPANY HAS APPLIED FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM ITS LOCAL
6 GOVERNMENT AND BEEN DENIED, EITHER IN PART OR IN FULL, FUNDING FOR THE
7 REQUEST.

8 (C) (1) IF THE ASSOCIATION DISAPPROVES A REQUEST OR DOES NOT TAKE
9 ACTION WITHIN 45 DAYS OF THE REQUEST, THEN THE VOLUNTEER COMPANY
10 REQUESTING ASSISTANCE MAY APPEAL TO A PANEL COMPRISED OF THE PRESIDENT
11 OF THE ASSOCIATION, THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FIRE
12 AND RESCUE EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMISSION.

13 (2) THE DECISION OF THE APPEALS PANEL SHALL BE FINAL AND NOT
14 SUBJECT TO FURTHER REVIEW.

15 (3) UPON APPROVAL OF A REQUEST FOR THE USE OF FUNDS, THE
16 ASSOCIATION OR THE APPEALS PANEL SHALL TRANSMIT ITS RECOMMENDATION TO
17 THE DEPARTMENT ALONG WITH THE REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND
18 ANY OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

19 (D) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL FORWARD EACH REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL
20 ASSISTANCE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES FOR REVIEW.

21 (2) THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES, UPON REVIEW OF
22 THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, MAY ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT IF THE REQUEST FOR
23 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPEARS JUSTIFIED.

24 (E) THE BOARD MAY AUTHORIZE USE OF THE FUNDS FROM THE EMERGENCY
25 TRUST ACCOUNT UPON RECOMMENDATION BY THE DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE
26 WITH THIS SECTION.

27 (F) UPON WARRANT OF THE COMPTROLLER, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL
28 DISBURSE FUNDS FROM THE FUND TO A VOLUNTEER COMPANY FOR THE PURPOSES
29 OF THIS SUBTITLE, AS AUTHORIZED BY THE BOARD.

30 46C.

31 (A) THE COMPTROLLER MAY AUDIT THE FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE
32 ASSOCIATION IN ORDER TO INSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.

33 (B) (1) FOR EACH VOLUNTEER COMPANY RECEIVING FUNDS UNDER THIS
34 SUBTITLE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REQUIRE THE VOLUNTEER COMPANY TO
35 SUBMIT WITHIN 90 DAYS OF THE RECEIPT OF THE EQUIPMENT OR BENEFICIAL
36 OCCUPANCY:

37 (I) FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH THE
38 FUNDS WERE RECEIVED; AND

1 (II) DOCUMENTATION OF ACTUAL EXPENDITURES.

2 (2) EACH VOLUNTEER COMPANY RECEIVING FUNDS UNDER THIS
3 SUBTITLE SHALL FORWARD THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND THE
4 DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION. SUBJECT
5 TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR.

6 (C) THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR SHALL:

7 (1) REVIEW THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND THE DOCUMENTATION
8 SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION TO
9 DETERMINE IF THE FUNDS WERE EXPENDED ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONS OF
10 THE REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD; AND

11 (2) REPORT THE FINDINGS TO THE DEPARTMENT AND, SUBJECT TO §
12 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE JOINT AUDIT COMMITTEE OF
13 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

14 46D.

15 AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE ASSOCIATION, THE GOVERNOR IS
16 AUTHORIZED TO INCLUDE THE AMOUNT IN THE STATE BUDGET EACH YEAR TO BE
17 APPROPRIATED TO AND ADMINISTERED BY THE ASSOCIATION TO:

18 (1) FORMULATE, PUBLISH, AND DISTRIBUTE THE FIRE LAWS OF
19 MARYLAND;

20 (2) FORMULATE, PUBLISH, AND DISTRIBUTE AN ANNUAL REPORT AND
21 MONTHLY OR OTHER TIMELY BULLETINS AND REPORTS;

22 (3) PUBLISH AND DISTRIBUTE FIRE PREVENTION MATERIAL;

23 (4) KEEP RECORDS RELATING TO THE ANNUAL INSPECTIONS OF FIRE
24 AND RESCUE APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT, AND FACILITIES; AND

25 (5) ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A DATA BASE ON MANPOWER
26 AVAILABILITY AND TRAINING, OPERATIONAL COST, APPARATUS AVAILABILITY,
27 RESPONSE TIME, STATE AND LOCAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT, AND OTHER RELEVANT
28 FACTORS IN PROVIDING FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES.

29 46E.

30 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "ACCOUNT" MEANS THE LOW INTEREST REVOLVING
31 LOAN ACCOUNT.

32 (B) THERE IS A LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT.

33 (C) THE ACCOUNT SHALL CONSIST OF ANY FUNDS APPROPRIATED IN THE
34 STATE BUDGET.

1 (D) THE BOARD MAY AWARD A LOAN FROM THE ACCOUNT TO PROVIDE A
2 LOAN TO A VOLUNTEER COMPANY TO ASSIST WITH UP TO 75% OF THE COST OF:

3 (1) PURCHASING OR REFURBISHING APPARATUS; AND

4 (2) UPGRADING OR REPLACING FACILITIES NEEDED TO STORE
5 EQUIPMENT.

6 (E) A LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAY NOT REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT
7 THE VOLUNTEER COMPANY WOULD OTHERWISE BE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE FROM
8 THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED
9 UNDER THIS ACCOUNT.

10 46F.

11 (A) FOR THE PURPOSE OF GRANTING LOANS UNDER § 46E OF THIS SUBTITLE,
12 THE ASSOCIATION SHALL:

13 (1) DEVELOP LOAN CRITERIA;

14 (2) DEVELOP TERMS OF A LOAN, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
15 INTEREST RATES;

16 (3) ESTABLISH A LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT BOARD;
17 AND

18 (4) RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD THE APPROVAL OR DENIAL OF LOANS.

19 (B) A VOLUNTEER COMPANY MAY SUBMIT A LOAN REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL
20 ASSISTANCE TO THE ASSOCIATION.

21 (C) EACH LOAN REQUEST SHALL INCLUDE:

22 (1) A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF THE REASONS FOR THE REQUEST;

23 (2) FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE 2 FISCAL YEARS IMMEDIATELY
24 PRIOR TO THE FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH THE APPLICATION IS MADE; AND

25 (3) THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT, IF AN AUDIT WAS
26 CONDUCTED.

27 46G.

28 (A) (1) THE LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT BOARD
29 ESTABLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATION UNDER § 46F OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL REVIEW
30 EACH LOAN REQUEST RECEIVED BY A VOLUNTEER COMPANY IN ACCORDANCE WITH
31 CRITERIA DEVELOPED UNDER § 46F OF THIS SUBTITLE.

32 (2) THE LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT BOARD SHALL
33 RECOMMEND TO THE ASSOCIATION THE APPROVAL OR REJECTION OF EACH LOAN
34 REQUEST.

1 (3) (I) THE ASSOCIATION MAY AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE LOW
2 INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT BOARD RECOMMENDATION.

3 (II) IF THE LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT BOARD
4 RECOMMENDS TO THE ASSOCIATION THAT A LOAN REQUEST BE REJECTED AND THE
5 ASSOCIATION AGREES, THE ASSOCIATION SHALL PROMPTLY SEND A WRITTEN
6 NOTICE TO THE VOLUNTEER COMPANY STATING THAT THE REQUEST HAS BEEN
7 REJECTED.

8 (III) IF THE LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT BOARD
9 RECOMMENDS TO THE ASSOCIATION THAT A LOAN REQUEST BE APPROVED AND THE
10 ASSOCIATION AGREES, THE ASSOCIATION SHALL SUBMIT THE LOAN REQUEST TO
11 THE BOARD FOR APPROVAL.

12 (B) UPON FINAL APPROVAL BY THE BOARD, THE LOAN SHALL BE MADE TO
13 THE REQUESTING VOLUNTEER COMPANY.

14 46H.

15 (A) THE ASSOCIATION SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE
16 DEPARTMENT AND TO THE BOARD BY AUGUST 30 OF EACH FISCAL YEAR TO INCLUDE
17 THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

18 (1) THE NUMBER OF LOANS MADE DURING THE FISCAL YEAR;

19 (2) THE ENTITIES THAT RECEIVED A LOAN AND THE AMOUNT OF THE
20 LOAN DURING THE FISCAL YEAR;

21 (3) THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE FOR GRANTING EACH LOAN DURING THE
22 FISCAL YEAR;

23 (4) THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF EACH VOLUNTEER COMPANY FOR
24 THE FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH THE FUNDS WERE RECEIVED; AND

25 (5) DOCUMENTATION OF EACH VOLUNTEER COMPANY'S ACTUAL
26 EXPENDITURES.

27 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

28 (1) REVIEW THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND THE DOCUMENTATION
29 SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION TO DETERMINE IF THE FUNDS
30 WERE EXPENDED ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL
31 ASSISTANCE AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD; AND

32 (2) REPORT THE FINDINGS TO THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION
33 COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

1

Article - Transportation2 ~~13-954.~~

3 (a) In this section, "motor vehicle" means a:

- 4 (1) Class A (passenger) vehicle;
- 5 (2) Class B (for hire) vehicle;
- 6 (3) Class C (funeral and ambulance) vehicle;
- 7 (4) Class D (motorcycle) vehicle;
- 8 (5) Class E (truck) vehicle;
- 9 (6) Class F (tractor) vehicle;
- 10 (7) Class H (school) vehicle;
- 11 (8) Class J (vanpool) vehicle;
- 12 (9) Class M (multipurpose) vehicle;
- 13 (10) Class P (passenger bus) vehicle;
- 14 (11) Class Q (limousine) vehicle; or
- 15 (12) Vehicle within any other class designated by the Administrator.

16 (b) ~~In addition to the registration fee otherwise required by this title, the~~
17 ~~owner of any motor vehicle registered under this title shall pay a surcharge of [\$8]~~
18 ~~\$11 per year for each motor vehicle registered.~~

19 13-955.

20 (a) In this section, "Fund" means the Maryland Emergency Medical System
21 Operations Fund.

22 (b) (1) There is a Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations Fund.

23 (2) The Fund is a continuing, nonlapsing fund which is not subject to §
24 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

25 (3) Interest and earnings on the Fund shall be separately accounted for
26 and credited to the Fund, and are not subject to § 6-226(a) of the State Finance and
27 Procurement Article.

28 (c) The Fund consists of:

29 (1) Registration surcharges collected under § 13-954 of this subtitle; and

1 (2) All funds, including charges for accident scene transports and
2 interhospital transfers of patients, generated by an entity specified in subsection (e)
3 of this section that is a unit of State government.

4 (d) Expenditures from the Fund shall be made pursuant to an appropriation
5 approved by the General Assembly in the annual State budget or by the budget
6 amendment procedure provided under § 7-209 of the State Finance and Procurement
7 Article, provided that any budget amendment shall be submitted to and approved by
8 the Legislative Policy Committee prior to the expenditure or obligation of funds.

9 (e) The money in the Fund shall be used solely for:

10 (1) Medically oriented functions of the Department of State Police,
11 Special Operations Bureau, Aviation Division;

12 (2) The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems;

13 (3) The R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of
14 Maryland Medical System;

15 (4) The Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute; [and]

16 (5) The provision of grants under the State Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance
17 Fund in accordance with the provisions of Article 38A, §§ 45A through 45D of the
18 Code; AND

19 (6) THE LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN FUND ACCOUNT UNDER THE
20 VOLUNTEER COMPANY ASSISTANCE FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS
21 OF ARTICLE 38A, §§ 47A THROUGH 47C §§ 46E THROUGH 46H OF THE CODE.

22 [(f) For the purpose of reimbursing the Fund for the purchase of a helicopter
23 and for the State share of the expansion of the helicopter hangar in Centreville,
24 Maryland, the Governor shall include the following appropriations in the annual
25 budget submission:

26 (1) For Fiscal Year 1998, \$2,000,000; and

27 (2) For Fiscal Year 1999, \$2,075,000.]

28 SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
29 effect ~~October 1, 2000~~ July 1, 2000.

