

SENATE BILL 292

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SB 154/00 - B&T

2001 Regular Session  
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CF 11r0032

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By: **Senators Middleton, Hoffman, Neall, Currie, Hogan, and Ruben**  
Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2001  
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
Senate action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 27, 2001

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CHAPTER 33

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicle Registration - Surcharge - Maryland Emergency Medical**  
3 **System Operations Fund**

4 FOR the purpose of increasing the motor vehicle registration surcharge for certain  
5 motor vehicles; stating certain findings of the General Assembly; establishing a  
6 Panel to conduct a study of the potential funding needs of the network of trauma  
7 centers that participate in the State's Emergency Medical Services System but  
8 do not receive funding under the Emergency Medical System Operations Fund  
9 (EMSOF); establishing the membership of the Panel; providing for the staff of  
10 the Panel; requiring Panel members to receive certain briefings; requiring the  
11 Panel to submit certain reports to the Governor and certain committees of the  
12 General Assembly on or before certain dates; clarifying the intent of the General  
13 Assembly in establishing the Panel; and generally relating to the surcharge for  
14 motor vehicle registration and funding for participants in the State's Emergency  
15 Medical Services System.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article - Transportation  
18 Section 13-954  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
22 Article - Transportation  
23 Section 13-955  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland  
25 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
2 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article - Transportation**

4 13-954.

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

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

18 (b) In addition to the registration fee otherwise required by this title, the  
19 owner of any motor vehicle registered under this title shall pay a surcharge of [\$8]  
20 \$11 per year for each motor vehicle registered.

21 13-955.

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

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

25 (2) The Fund is a continuing, nonlapsing fund which is not subject to §  
26 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

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

1 (c) The Fund consists of:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 (4) The Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute;

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

21 (6) The Low Interest Revolving Loan Account under the Volunteer  
22 Company Assistance Fund in accordance with the provisions of Article 38A, §§ 46E  
23 through 46H of the Code.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

25 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

26 1. the State of Maryland has been a national pioneer in the  
27 development of emergency medical services, and has developed one of the premier  
28 emergency medical services systems in the world through the cooperation of  
29 prehospital care providers, including police department personnel and volunteer and  
30 career firefighters and emergency medical service providers, hospital administrators,  
31 physicians, nurses, government officials, and other emergency personnel;

32 2. a necessary component of Maryland's Emergency Medical Services  
33 System is the network of regional trauma centers that participate in the system but  
34 do not receive funding under the Emergency Medical System Operations Fund  
35 (EMSOF); and

1           3. while other components of the State's Emergency Medical Services  
2 System have been studied by the General Assembly in the past, the General Assembly  
3 has not studied the potential funding needs of the network of trauma centers  
4 participating in the State's Emergency Medical Services System that do not receive  
5 funding under EMSOF.

6       (b)     It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish a Panel to study the  
7 potential funding needs of the network of trauma centers participating in the State's  
8 Emergency Medical Services System that do not receive funding under EMSOF.

9       (c)     There is a Panel to study the potential funding needs of the network of  
10 trauma centers participating in the State's Emergency Medical Services System that  
11 do not receive funding under EMSOF.

12       (d)     The Panel shall consist of the following 15 members:

13           1. three members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the  
14 Senate as follows:

15                   (i)     one member from the Budget and Taxation Committee;

16                   (ii)    one member from the Finance Committee; and

17                   (iii)   one member from the Judicial Proceedings Committee;

18           2. three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker  
19 of the House as follows:

20                   (i)     one member from the Appropriations Committee;

21                   (ii)    one member from the Commerce and Government Matters  
22 Committee; and

23                   (iii)   one member from the Environmental Matters Committee;

24           3. the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management, or the  
25 Secretary's designee;

26           4. the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, or  
27 the Secretary's designee;

28           5. the Executive Director of the Maryland Institute of Emergency  
29 Medical Services System, or the Executive Director's designee;

30           6. the Chairperson of the Emergency Medical Services Board, or the  
31 Chairperson's designee; and

32           7. five members of the general public who do not have an interest in the  
33 State's Emergency Medical Services System, appointed as follows:

34                   (i)     one by the Governor;

1 (ii) two by the President of the Senate; and

2 (iii) two by the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

3 (e) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House jointly shall  
4 appoint co-chairs from among the Senate and the House members appointed to the  
5 Panel.

6 (f) The Panel shall be staffed by the Department of Legislative Services, in  
7 consultation with the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission and the  
8 Maryland Health Care Commission.

9 (g) In conducting its study of the potential funding needs of the network of  
10 trauma centers participating in the State's Emergency Medical Services System that  
11 do not receive funding under EMSOF, the Panel shall:

12 (i) examine the costs associated with the operation of adult and  
13 pediatric trauma centers, each of the level I through level III trauma centers, and any  
14 other trauma centers that participate in the State's Emergency Medical Services  
15 System;

16 (ii) evaluate the amount, extent, source, and contributing factors of any  
17 financial gain or loss attributable to each of the State's designated trauma centers  
18 that are not already recovered under the hospital rate setting system under the  
19 Health Services Cost Review Commission; and

20 (iii) consider potential funding sources or other approaches to address  
21 any funding needs identified by the study.

22 (h) To enable Panel members to understand the frame of reference of the  
23 State's Emergency Medical Services System and its related entities, the Panel shall  
24 be briefed on any studies of the components of the Emergency Medical Services  
25 System conducted in the past 4 years.

26 (i) 1. The Panel shall submit reports in accordance with paragraph 2 of  
27 this subsection on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in  
28 accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Budget and  
29 Taxation Committee, Finance Committee, and Judicial Proceedings Committee, and  
30 the House Appropriations Committee, Commerce and Government Matters  
31 Committee, and Environmental Matters Committee.

32 2. The Panel shall submit an interim report on or before January 1,  
33 2002 and a final report on or before December 1, 2002.

34 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That in establishing the Panel  
35 to study the potential funding needs of the network of trauma centers under Section  
36 2 of this Act, the General Assembly does not intend to provide funding to these  
37 trauma centers from the increase in the motor vehicle registration surcharge enacted  
38 under Section 1 of this Act.

1 SECTION ~~2.4.~~ AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
2 effect July 1, 2001.