
By: **Senators Lawlah, Britt, Currie, Exum, and Giannetti**
Introduced and read first time: March 8, 2004
Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Private Commercial Air Ambulance Pilot Program for Prince George's**
3 **Hospital Center**

4 FOR the purpose of creating the Private Commercial Air Ambulance Pilot Program
5 for Prince George's Hospital Center; providing for the purpose of the Pilot
6 Program; requiring that the Pilot Program be administered by the Maryland
7 Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, in cooperation with the
8 Aviation Division of the Special Operations Bureau of the Department of State
9 Police; requiring the Institute and the Aviation Division to close a certain
10 helicopter base and refer certain calls to certain private commercial air
11 ambulance services and medical evacuation helicopters; requiring the Institute
12 to calculate certain savings and provide a certain grant in a certain amount;
13 requiring the grant to be used for a certain purpose; requiring the Institute to
14 adopt certain regulations; requiring the Institute to submit a certain report on
15 or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally
16 relating to the Private Commercial Air Ambulance Pilot Program for Prince
17 George's Hospital Center.

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
19 MARYLAND, That:

20 (a) There is a Private Commercial Air Ambulance Pilot Program for Prince
21 George's Hospital Center.

22 (b) The purpose of the Program is to test the feasibility of using commercial
23 air ambulance services as an alternative to Maryland State Police helicopters.

24 (c) The Pilot Program shall be administered by the Maryland Institute for
25 Emergency Medical Services Systems, in cooperation with the Aviation Division of the
26 Special Operations Bureau of the Department of State Police.

27 (d) To implement the Pilot Program, the Maryland Institute for Emergency
28 Medical Services Systems and the Aviation Division of the Special Operations Bureau
29 of the Department of State Police shall:

30 (1) Close the Trooper 2 helicopter base for a period of 1 year; and

1 (2) Refer all calls previously served by the Trooper 2 helicopter base to
2 private commercial air ambulance services or commercial medical evacuation
3 helicopters currently operating in the State.

4 (e) The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems shall:

5 (1) Calculate the savings achieved from the reduction in operational
6 expenses, not including personnel, related to the temporary closure of the Trooper 2
7 helicopter base;

8 (2) Provide a grant to Prince George's Hospital Center in an amount
9 equal to the savings achieved; and

10 (3) Adopt regulations necessary to implement the Pilot Program.

11 (f) The grant provided to Prince George's Hospital Center under the Pilot
12 Program shall be used exclusively for the operation of the hospital's trauma center.

13 (g) (1) On or before October 1, 2005, the Maryland Institute for Emergency
14 Medical Services Systems shall report to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the
15 State Government Article, the General Assembly on the implementation and
16 performance of the Pilot Program.

17 (2) The report shall:

18 (i) Evaluate the costs, benefits, and operational experience of the
19 Pilot Program;

20 (ii) Quantify any savings generated by the Pilot Program;

21 (iii) Identify the amount of any grant awarded to Prince George's
22 Hospital Center; and

23 (iv) Assess the performance of the Pilot Program in meeting the
24 aeromedical transportation needs of Prince George's County and Southern Maryland.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
26 effect July 1, 2004. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 3 months and,
27 at the end of September 30, 2005, with no further action required by the General
28 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.