

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1344
Appropriations

(Delegate Griffith, *et al.*)

Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2010 - Prince George's County -
Prince George's County Fire Department

This bill amends the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2010 to make largely technical changes to the grantees and specified volunteer fire departments (VFDs). Thus, the bill specifies the County Executive and County Council of Prince George's County, as grantee, may use funds for the benefit of the boards of directors of (1) the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.; (2) the Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department, Incorporated; (3) the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department, Incorporated; (4) the Kentland Volunteer Fire Department of Kentland, Maryland, Incorporated; and (5) the Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Incorporated. The funds must be used for the repair and renovation of those VFD facilities.

The bill repeals the authority for matching funds to consist of real property and in-kind contributions. The bill also extends the deadline to June 1, 2015, for the County Executive and County Council of Prince George's County to present evidence of a matching fund and specifies that the grant may not terminate before June 1, 2015.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2013.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: Absent the bill, Prince George's County loses access to up to \$250,000 in matching funds. Otherwise, the bill's changes in the grantees and boards of directors specified are largely technical – although the specific mention of the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department is replaced with the Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 483 of 2010 (SB 142) authorized up to \$250,000 in matching funds as a grant to the Prince George's County VFD for the repair and renovation of the Prince George's County VFD. The matching funds may consist of real property, in-kind contributions, or funds expended prior to the June 1, 2010 effective date of Chapter 483. Chapter 442 of 2012 (HB 1463, an emergency bill) amended that authorization to modify the grantees to be the Prince George's County Fire Department, the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Department, the Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department, the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department, the Kentland Volunteer Fire Department, and the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department. Chapter 442 also specified that the funds were for the repair and renovation of the Prince George's County Fire Department (rather than the Prince George's County VFD). Chapter 442 did not change the June 1, 2012 deadline for the grantee to present evidence that a matching fund would be provided; nor did it change the June 1, 2012 deadline for the funds to be expended or encumbered by the Board of Public Works.

Background: The Prince George's County Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department strives to improve the quality of life in Prince George's County by promoting safety and providing fire prevention, fire protection, emergency medical services, and community outreach programs.

The Prince George's County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association represents 38 volunteer fire and rescue corporations in Prince George's County, Maryland, staffing 46 stations providing dedicated and continuous fire, rescue and emergency medical service to more than 700,000 citizens. The Prince George's County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association works closely with the Prince George's County Fire Department administration.

According to the Prince George's County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, the Prince George's Volunteer Fire Department facilities have received the matching funding necessary from Prince George's County, but it has yet to receive any of the authorized grant money.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Prince George's County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, Department of General Services, Department of Legislative Services

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mc/ljm

Analysis by: Heather N. Ruby

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510