



SB 1092 – Vehicle Registration – Emergency Medical System Surcharge – Increase and Distribution of Funds

Summary: SB 1092 increases the vehicle registration fee surcharge that supports various components of the statewide EMS system and distributes revenues from that surcharge to increase support to the Trauma Physician Services Fund, to provide funds to the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, with the balance to be paid to the Maryland Emergency Medical Services Operations Fund (MEMSOF).

MIEMSS Position: Support

The vehicle registration fee surcharge (currently \$17 annually) supports:

- **The MEMSOF (\$14.50)** which is used solely for the entities below:
 - Maryland State Police Aviation Command's medevac functions; general funds support other non-medevac functions, e.g., law enforcement.
 - Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) -- an independent state agency that oversees and coordinates all components of the EMS system.
 - R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center – Maryland's Primary Adult Resource Center for the treatment of trauma receives a small portion of the MEMSOF.
 - Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute -- provides training and continuing education for many of Maryland's EMS providers, within the career/volunteer Fire/EMS communities.
 - Local grants under the Senator William H. Amoss Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Fund (Amoss Fund) to counties to promote effective and high-quality fire protection, rescue and ambulance services. Grants are administered by MDEM and distributions are made according to each county's percentage of total property tax distributions.

MEMSOF expenditures are affected by inflation; motor vehicle surcharges, originally enacted in 1992, have not been increased since 2013. As a result, both DLS and DBM project MEMSOF to become insolvent in FY26.

- **The Trauma Physician Services Fund (\$2.50)** which provides supplemental funding to help support some of the costs associated with the substantial financial commitment associated with trauma revenue.

Surcharge revenues available to the Trauma Physician Fund are insufficient to provide the support needed by Maryland trauma centers and trauma practitioners. The Commission to Study Trauma Center Funding in Maryland recommended increased support for trauma centers and practitioners. (Report under SB 493/Ch 342; HB 675/Ch 341 Laws of MD 2023).

- **The R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center** provides the State's highest level of capability and readiness. Although the Center currently receives a small portion of the MEMSOF, it is woefully inadequate to meet the needs of the Center as it provides 24/7 emergency care of significantly injured patients from resuscitation to discharge. The Center's stand-by costs alone, which are underfunded and not established in hospital rates, exceed \$9 million/year.

The Shock Trauma Center needs additional annual support to meet the needs of critically injured trauma patients and to continue operations as Maryland's highest level trauma center.

MIEMSS Supports SB 1092 and Asks for a Favorable Report