



## HB 1439 – Public Health – Funding for Trauma Centers and Services

**Bill Summary:** HB 1439 modifies the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund (“Trauma Physician Fund”) with the goal of increasing funding to trauma physicians and other trauma health care practitioners and to trauma hospitals. In addition to various changes made to the existing Trauma Physician Services Fund statute to provide additional funding opportunities, HB 1439 also increases the motor vehicle registration fee surcharge from \$17.00 to \$24.50 per year, \$10 of which is to be paid to the Trauma Physician Fund. It also removes the Maryland State Police Aviation Command from continued funding by the Maryland Emergency Medical Services Operations Fund (MEMSOF).

**MIEMSS Position and Rationale:** Support with Amendment to Continue Funding for the Maryland State Police Aviation Command from the Maryland Emergency Medical Services Operations Fund (MEMSOF)

### Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund

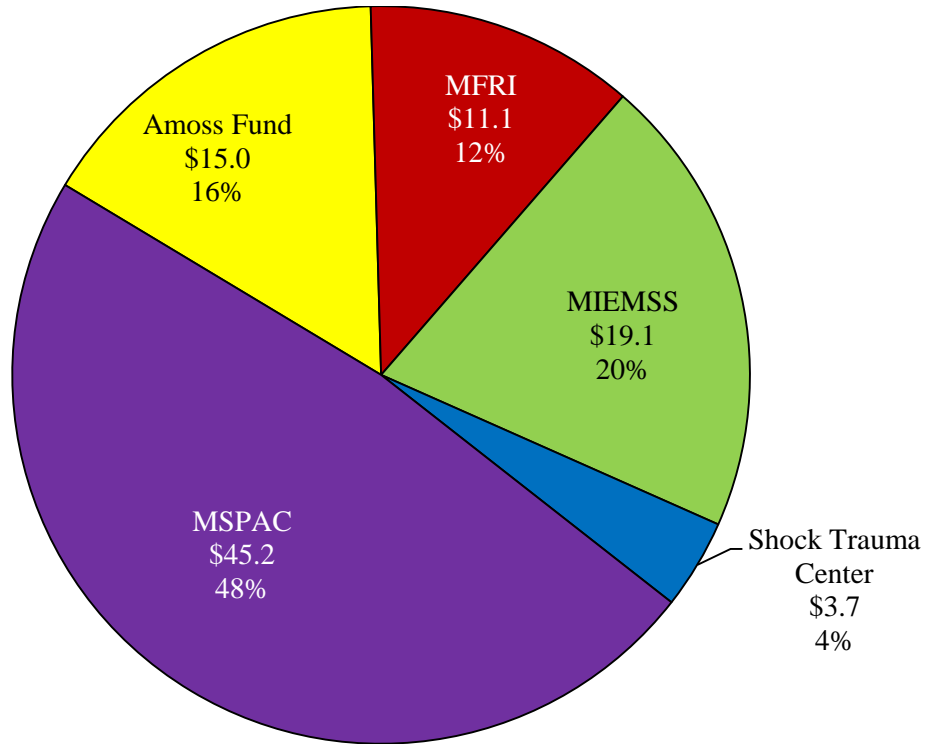
- Maryland’s trauma centers provide expert care for seriously injured people. Maryland’s trauma centers – designated by MIEMSS – are the foundation of a statewide system that is designed to optimize outcomes for people with complex and often life-threatening injuries. Trauma centers must maintain a constant state of readiness, requiring considerable investments in personnel, equipment, and operations.
- For more than 20 years, the Trauma Physician Services Fund has provided supplemental funding to help support some of the costs associated with the substantial financial commitment associated with trauma center operations. Fund revenue is provided by a portion of a \$17 annual surcharge on vehicle registration fees (currently \$2.50 goes to the Trauma Physician Fund). However, current revenues from the Fund are insufficient to provide the support needed.
- HB 1439 will modernize the Trauma Physician Fund and provide additional revenue to support trauma centers as they continue to provide life-saving treatment to seriously injured people.

### Maryland EMS Operations Fund (MEMSOF)

- Maryland’s statewide emergency medical services (EMS) system is supported by MEMSOF. Funding for MEMSOF comes from a portion of a \$17 annual surcharge on motor vehicle registrations (currently \$14.50 goes to MEMSOF) and a \$7.50 moving violation surcharge. By statute, MEMSOF is used solely for the specified entities (below and See Figure 1):
  - 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 -- the State’s Primary Adult Resource Center for the treatment of trauma.
  - Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute -- provides training and continuing education for many of Maryland’s EMS clinicians and firefighters within career and volunteer services.
  - 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 registration 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
- HB1439 increases the vehicle registration fee surcharge from \$17 to \$24.50 in order to help fund trauma center needs, but does not add revenue to the MEMSOF. It removes the Maryland State Police Aviation Command (MSPAC) from the MEMSOF.
- **MSPAC is an integral part of the EMS system, and its removal from the MEMSOF could result in a disjointed EMS system. The entities supported by the MEMSOF have developed an integrated and collaborative approach to care of critically ill and injured in Maryland, fostered in large part by the single source of funding – MEMSOF – that has successfully supported the statewide EMS system for over 30 years. Fragmenting the heretofore single source of funding for these critical components of the Maryland EMS system has potential risks, as close collaboration and cooperation is vital to the operation of the emergency medical system in the State.**
- MIEMSS’ amendment will restore MEMSOF support for the Maryland State Police Aviation Command (see amendment)

**MIEMSS supports HB 1439 with Amendment to restore MSP Aviation Command to MEMSOF Funding**

**Exhibit 1**  
**MEMSOF Fiscal 2025 Expenditures**  
**(\$ in Millions)**



Amoss Fund: Senator William H. Amoss Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Fund  
MEMSOF: Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations Fund  
MFRI: Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute  
MIEMSS: Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems  
MSPAC: Maryland State Police Aviation Command  
Shock Trauma Center: R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center

Note: Percentages may not sum to total due to rounding. This projection does not reflect fiscal 2025 salary enhancements budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management Statewide Account.

Source: Governor’s Fiscal 2025 Budget Books; Department of Legislative Services

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AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 1439  
(First Reading File Bill)

On page 11, lines 10 and 12, in each instance, by striking the brackets:

10 (4) ~~{~~Aviation Division of the Special Operations Bureau, Department of  
11 State Police; and  
12 (5)~~}~~ grants under the Senator William H. Amoss Fire, Rescue, and  
13 Ambulance Fund.

On page 12, lines 17 and 19, in each instance, by striking the brackets:

17 “(1)~~{~~Medically oriented functions of the Department of State Police, Special  
18 Operations Bureau, Aviation Division;  
19 (2)~~}~~”.

On page 12, lines 20, 22, 23, and 26, in each instance, by striking the brackets and striking the proposed numbering:

20 ~~{(3)}~~ ~~(2)~~ The R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of  
21 Maryland Medical System;  
22 ~~{(4)}~~ ~~(3)~~ The Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute;  
23 ~~{(5)}~~ ~~(4)~~ The provision of grants under the Senator William H. Amoss  
24 Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Fund in accordance with the provisions of Title 8, Subtitle 1  
25 of the Public Safety Article; and  
26 ~~{(6)}~~ ~~(5)~~ The Volunteer Company Assistance Fund in accordance with the  
27 provisions of Title 8, Subtitle 2 of the Public Safety Article.