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By: Senator Jimeno

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1999

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Emergency Assistance Trust Fund - Annual Funding - Matching Funds

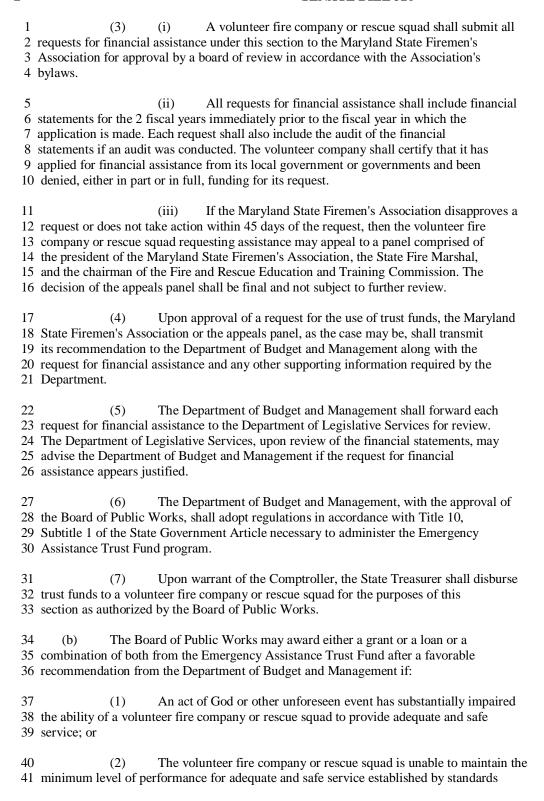
- 3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Governor to appropriate to the Emergency
- 4 Assistance Trust Fund an amount not exceeding a certain amount each year in
- 5 the State budget; removing the requirement that in order for certain fire
- 6 companies or rescue squads to receive certain funds they must provide certain
- 7 matching funds; and generally relating to the Emergency Assistance Trust Fund
- 8 and volunteer fire companies and rescue squads.
- 9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 10 Article 38A Fires and Investigations
- 11 Section 46A
- 12 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 13 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)
- 14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
- 15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 Article 38A - Fires and Investigations

17 46A.

- 18 (a) (1) There is an Emergency Assistance Trust Fund to assure adequate
- 19 fire protection and rescue services for the people of this State. After consultation with
- 20 the Maryland State Firemen's Association, the Governor is authorized to include an
- 21 amount NOT EXCEEDING \$5,000,000 in the State budget each year for the purposes set
- 22 forth in this section. Any portion of appropriated funds that are not obligated at the
- 23 end of the fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund and shall be carried over for
- 24 use in the next fiscal year. Amounts received as repayments on loans from the
- 25 Emergency Assistance Trust Fund shall be placed in the Trust Fund and made
- 26 available to fund requests for financial assistance.
- 27 (2) The Board of Public Works may authorize use of the trust funds upon
- 28 recommendation by the Department of Budget and Management in accordance with
- 29 this section.

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| | of the Maryland State Firemen's Association because of a demonstrated lack of financial resources; and |
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| 5 6 7 8 | (3) The Department of Budget and Management and the volunteer fire company or rescue squad receiving assistance have executed an agreement which provides that trust funds will be used as represented in the request for approval to the Board of Public Works and which grants to the State such security in the equipment or facilities acquired with trust funds and in the proceeds of that equipment or those facilities as is determined by the Board to be appropriate and adequate. |
| 10 | (c) A grant or loan awarded under this section shall be used only for: |
| | (1) Apparatus equipment, including elevated equipment, pumpers, tankers, ladder trucks, ambulances, rescue vehicles, or other large equipment used for fire fighting and emergency services; |
| 14 | (2) Communications equipment; |
| 15 16 | (3) Protective equipment, including helmets, turnout coats and pants, boots, eyeshields, gloves, and self-contained respiratory protection units; |
| 17 18 | (4) Any other equipment necessary to carry out the ordinary functions of supporting fire fighting and rescue activities; or |
| 19 20 | (5) Facilities used to house fire fighting equipment, ambulances, and rescue vehicles. |
| 21 | (d) (1) A grant or loan awarded under this section may not: |
| 22 23 | (i) Be used to refinance any debt or other obligation of a volunteer fire company or rescue squad incurred before July 1, 1982; or |
| 24 25 | (ii) Be expended for replacement or repair of eligible items to the extent that insurance proceeds are available for those purposes. |
| 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 | [(2) A volunteer fire company or rescue squad receiving trust funds under this section shall provide at least a 30 percent matching dollar amount for grants or loans, as the case may be. If a volunteer fire company or rescue squad cannot reasonably provide the required dollar match prior to disbursement of trust funds, the Board of Public Works may waive that requirement or provide for repayment of the matching dollar amount within a reasonable period of time not to exceed 18 months from the date of purchase of the equipment or facilities. (3)] (2) Funds to provide the required matching dollar amount may include contributions from local government. However, a local government may not |
| 36 | reduce the amount of money that the volunteer fire company or rescue squad would otherwise be entitled to receive from the local government because of State financial assistance provided under this section. |

- 1 [(4)] (3) Financial assistance from the Trust Fund may not be approved 2 if a volunteer company has not made a good faith effort to obtain funds from its local
- 3 government.
- SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
- 5 October 1, 1999.