

SENATE BILL 154

Unofficial Copy
R4

2000 Regular Session
0lr0046

By: **Chairman, Budget and Taxation Committee (Departmental - Md. Inst.
for Emer. Medical Serv. Sys.)**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2000

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations Fund - Source of Funds**
3 **and Permissible Uses**

4 FOR the purpose of increasing the motor vehicle registration fee surcharge for certain
5 motor vehicles to fund the Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations
6 Fund; providing for distribution of the surcharge; repealing obsolete provisions;
7 establishing the Low Interest Revolving Loan Fund to be administered by the
8 Maryland State Firemen's Association; requiring the Association to perform
9 certain duties; specifying the requirements for submitting a loan request to the
10 Association; requiring the Board of Public Works to approve certain loan
11 requests; requiring the Association to submit a certain annual report;
12 authorizing the Comptroller to audit the Association; defining certain terms;
13 and generally relating to the Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations
14 Fund.

15 BY adding to
16 Article 38A - Fires and Investigations
17 Section 47A through 47E, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Low Interest
18 Revolving Loan Fund"
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
22 Article - Transportation
23 Section 13-954 and 13-955
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (1999 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

26 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
27 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

1 **Article 38A - Fires and Investigations**2 **LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN FUND**

3 47A.

4 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
5 INDICATED.

6 (B) "ASSOCIATION" MEANS THE MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

7 (C) "BOARD" MEANS THE LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN FUND BOARD.

8 (D) "FUND" MEANS THE LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN FUND.

9 47B.

10 (A) (1) THERE IS A LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN FUND.

11 (2) THE FUND SHALL BE USED TO PROVIDE LOANS TO VOLUNTEER
12 AMBULANCE, FIRE, AND RESCUE COMPANIES TO ASSIST WITH UP TO 75% OF THE
13 COST OF:

14 (I) PURCHASING OR REFURBISHING APPARATUS; AND

15 (II) UPGRADING OR REPLACING FACILITIES NEEDED TO STORE
16 EQUIPMENT.17 (B) THE MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION SHALL ADMINISTER THE
18 FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.19 (C) (1) THE FUND IS A CONTINUING, NONLAPSING FUND WHICH IS NOT
20 SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.21 (2) THE TREASURER SHALL SEPARATELY HOLD AND THE COMPTROLLER
22 SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.23 (3) ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE PAID INTO
24 THE FUND.

25 47C.

26 (A) FOR THE PURPOSE OF GRANTING LOANS UNDER § 47B OF THIS SUBTITLE,
27 THE ASSOCIATION SHALL:

28 (1) DEVELOP LOAN CRITERIA;

29 (2) DEVELOP TERMS OF A LOAN, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
30 INTEREST RATES;

31 (3) ESTABLISH A BOARD; AND

1 (4) RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS THE APPROVAL OR
2 DENIAL OF LOANS.

3 (B) A VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE, FIRE, OR RESCUE COMPANY MAY SUBMIT A
4 LOAN REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE ASSOCIATION.

5 (C) EACH LOAN REQUEST SHALL INCLUDE:

6 (1) A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF THE REASONS FOR THE REQUEST;

7 (2) FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE 2 FISCAL YEARS IMMEDIATELY
8 PRIOR TO THE FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH THE APPLICATION IS MADE; AND

9 (3) THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT, IF AN AUDIT WAS
10 CONDUCTED.

11 47D.

12 (A) (1) THE BOARD ESTABLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATION UNDER § 47C OF
13 THIS SUBTITLE SHALL REVIEW EACH LOAN REQUEST RECEIVED BY A VOLUNTEER
14 AMBULANCE, FIRE, OR RESCUE COMPANY IN ACCORDANCE WITH CRITERIA
15 DEVELOPED UNDER § 47C OF THIS SUBTITLE.

16 (2) THE BOARD SHALL RECOMMEND TO THE ASSOCIATION THE
17 APPROVAL OR REJECTION OF EACH LOAN REQUEST.

18 (3) (I) THE ASSOCIATION MAY AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE
19 BOARD'S RECOMMENDATION.

20 (II) IF THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE ASSOCIATION THAT A
21 LOAN REQUEST BE REJECTED AND THE ASSOCIATION AGREES, THE ASSOCIATION
22 SHALL PROMPTLY SEND A WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE, FIRE,
23 OR RESCUE COMPANY INFORMING THE COMPANY THAT THE REQUEST HAS BEEN
24 REJECTED.

25 (III) IF THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE ASSOCIATION THAT A
26 LOAN REQUEST BE APPROVED AND THE ASSOCIATION AGREES, THE ASSOCIATION
27 SHALL SUBMIT THE LOAN REQUEST TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR
28 APPROVAL.

29 (B) UPON FINAL APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE LOAN
30 SHALL BE MADE TO THE REQUESTING VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE, FIRE, OR RESCUE
31 COMPANY.

32 47E.

33 (A) THE ASSOCIATION SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE
34 DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT AND TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC
35 WORKS TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

36 (1) THE NUMBER OF LOANS MADE DURING THE FISCAL YEAR;

1 (3) Interest and earnings on the Fund shall be separately accounted for
2 and credited to the Fund, and are not subject to § 6-226(a) of the State Finance and
3 Procurement Article.

4 (c) The Fund consists of:

5 (1) Registration surcharges collected under § 13-954 of this subtitle; and

6 (2) All funds, including charges for accident scene transports and
7 interhospital transfers of patients, generated by an entity specified in subsection (e)
8 of this section that is a unit of State government.

9 (d) Expenditures from the Fund shall be made pursuant to an appropriation
10 approved by the General Assembly in the annual State budget or by the budget
11 amendment procedure provided under § 7-209 of the State Finance and Procurement
12 Article, provided that any budget amendment shall be submitted to and approved by
13 the Legislative Policy Committee prior to the expenditure or obligation of funds.

14 (e) The money in the Fund shall be used solely for:

15 (1) Medically oriented functions of the Department of State Police,
16 Special Operations Bureau, Aviation Division;

17 (2) The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems;

18 (3) The R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of
19 Maryland Medical System;

20 (4) The Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute; [and]

21 (5) The provision of grants under the State Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance
22 Fund in accordance with the provisions of Article 38A, §§ 45A through 45D of the
23 Code; AND

24 (6) THE LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH
25 THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 38A, §§ 47A THROUGH 47C OF THE CODE.

26 [(f) For the purpose of reimbursing the Fund for the purchase of a helicopter
27 and for the State share of the expansion of the helicopter hangar in Centreville,
28 Maryland, the Governor shall include the following appropriations in the annual
29 budget submission:

30 (1) For Fiscal Year 1998, \$2,000,000; and

31 (2) For Fiscal Year 1999, \$2,075,000.]

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
33 effect October 1, 2000.