

SENATE BILL 154

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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

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 30, 2000

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations Fund – Source of Funds~~
3 ~~and Permissible Uses~~
4 Volunteer Company Assistance Fund

5 FOR the purpose of ~~increasing the motor vehicle registration fee surcharge for certain~~
6 ~~motor vehicles to fund the Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations~~
7 ~~Fund; providing for distribution of the surcharge; repealing obsolete provisions;~~
8 ~~establishing the Low Interest Revolving Loan Fund to be administered by the~~
9 ~~Maryland State Firemen's Association; requiring the Association to perform~~
10 ~~certain duties; specifying the requirements for submitting a loan request to the~~
11 ~~Association; requiring the Board of Public Works to approve certain loan~~
12 ~~requests; requiring the Association to submit a certain annual report;~~
13 ~~authorizing the Comptroller to audit the Association; repealing certain~~
14 ~~provisions concerning the Emergency Assistance Trust Fund; establishing the~~
15 ~~Volunteer Company Assistance Fund as a continuing, nonlapsing fund;~~
16 ~~establishing the Emergency Assistance Trust Account and the Low Interest~~
17 ~~Revolving Loan Account in the Fund; providing for the purposes and uses of the~~
18 ~~Emergency Assistance Trust Account and the Low Interest Revolving Loan~~
19 ~~Account; providing for the administration of the Fund; providing certain sources~~
20 ~~of revenue for the Fund; authorizing the Board of Public Works to authorize use~~
21 ~~of the Accounts; requiring certain volunteer ambulance, fire, or rescue~~
22 ~~companies to submit a request for certain financial assistance containing~~
23 ~~certain information to the Maryland State Firemen's Association; requiring~~
24 ~~certain volunteer companies to submit certain certification of a certain denial~~
25 ~~for local financial assistance with an application for funding under the~~
26 ~~Emergency Assistance Trust Account; requiring certain volunteer companies to~~

1 provide certain matching funds to receive funds from the Emergency Assistance
 2 Trust Account under certain circumstances; providing for an appeals procedure
 3 under the Emergency Assistance Trust Account if the Maryland State Firemen's
 4 Association denies or fails to take action on a certain request; providing for the
 5 composition of the appeals panel; requiring the Maryland State Firemen's
 6 Association or the appeals panel to transmit a certain recommendation and
 7 certain documentation to the Department of Budget and Management;
 8 requiring the Department of Budget and Management to forward a certain
 9 request to the Department of Legislative Services; requiring the Department of
 10 Legislative Services to review a certain request; requiring the Department of
 11 Budget and Management to adopt certain regulations; authorizing the
 12 Comptroller to audit the finances of the Maryland State Firemen's Association
 13 for a certain purpose; requiring certain volunteer companies to forward certain
 14 statements and documents to the Department of Budget and Management and
 15 the Legislative Auditor in a certain manner; requiring the Legislative Auditor to
 16 submit certain reports to the Department of Budget and Management and the
 17 Joint Audit Committee of the General Assembly in a certain manner;
 18 authorizing the Governor to include a certain amount in the State budget to be
 19 appropriated to and administered by the Maryland State Firemen's Association
 20 for certain purposes; requiring the Maryland State Firemen's Association to
 21 develop certain criteria for a specified purpose; requiring the Association to
 22 submit a certain annual report containing certain information in a certain
 23 manner to the Department of Budget and Management; requiring the
 24 Department of Budget and Management to review a certain report; requiring
 25 the Department of Budget and Management to report to certain committees of
 26 the General Assembly concerning a certain report; providing that money in the
 27 Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations Fund shall be used for a
 28 certain Low Interest Revolving Loan Account under a certain Volunteer
 29 Company Assistance Fund; defining certain terms; repealing a certain obsolete
 30 provision; and generally relating to the ~~Maryland Emergency Medical System~~
 31 ~~Operations Fund~~ Volunteer Company Assistance Fund.

32 ~~BY adding to~~
 33 ~~Article 38A - Fires and Investigations~~
 34 ~~Section 47A through 47E, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Low Interest~~
 35 ~~Revolving Loan Fund"~~
 36 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
 37 ~~(1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)~~

38 BY repealing
 39 Article 38A - Fires and Investigations
 40 Section 46A through 46C, inclusive, and the subtitle "Volunteer Company
 41 Emergency Trust Fund"
 42 Annotated Code of Maryland
 43 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

44 BY adding to

1 Article 38A - Fires and Investigations
 2 Section 46 through 46H, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Volunteer
 3 Company Assistance Fund"
 4 Annotated Code of Maryland
 5 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 7 Article - Transportation
 8 Section ~~13-954~~ and 13-955
 9 Annotated Code of Maryland
 10 (1999 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
 12 MARYLAND, That Section(s) 46A through 46C, inclusive, and the subtitle "Volunteer
 13 Company Emergency Trust Fund" of Article 38A - Fires and Investigations of the
 14 Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland
 16 read as follows:

17 **Article 38A - Fires and Investigations**

18 **LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN FUND**

19 ~~47A.~~

20 ~~(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS~~
 21 ~~INDICATED:~~

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

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

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

25 ~~47B.~~

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

27 ~~(2) THE FUND SHALL BE USED TO PROVIDE LOANS TO VOLUNTEER~~
 28 ~~AMBULANCE, FIRE, AND RESCUE COMPANIES TO ASSIST WITH UP TO 75% OF THE~~
 29 ~~COST OF:~~

30 ~~(I) PURCHASING OR REFURBISHING APPARATUS; AND~~

31 ~~(II) UPGRADING OR REPLACING FACILITIES NEEDED TO STORE~~
 32 ~~EQUIPMENT.~~

1 ~~(B) THE MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION SHALL ADMINISTER THE~~
2 ~~FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.~~

3 ~~(C) (1) THE FUND IS A CONTINUING, NONLAPSING FUND WHICH IS NOT~~
4 ~~SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.~~

5 ~~(2) THE TREASURER SHALL SEPARATELY HOLD AND THE COMPTROLLER~~
6 ~~SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.~~

7 ~~(3) ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE PAID INTO~~
8 ~~THE FUND.~~

9 ~~47C.~~

10 ~~(A) FOR THE PURPOSE OF GRANTING LOANS UNDER § 47B OF THIS SUBTITLE,~~
11 ~~THE ASSOCIATION SHALL:~~

12 ~~(1) DEVELOP LOAN CRITERIA;~~

13 ~~(2) DEVELOP TERMS OF A LOAN, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF~~
14 ~~INTEREST RATES;~~

15 ~~(3) ESTABLISH A BOARD; AND~~

16 ~~(4) RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS THE APPROVAL OR~~
17 ~~DENIAL OF LOANS.~~

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

20 ~~(C) EACH LOAN REQUEST SHALL INCLUDE:~~

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

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

24 ~~(3) THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT, IF AN AUDIT WAS~~
25 ~~CONDUCTED.~~

26 ~~47D.~~

27 ~~(A) (1) THE BOARD ESTABLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATION UNDER § 47C OF~~
28 ~~THIS SUBTITLE SHALL REVIEW EACH LOAN REQUEST RECEIVED BY A VOLUNTEER~~
29 ~~AMBULANCE, FIRE, OR RESCUE COMPANY IN ACCORDANCE WITH CRITERIA~~
30 ~~DEVELOPED UNDER § 47C OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

31 ~~(2) THE BOARD SHALL RECOMMEND TO THE ASSOCIATION THE~~
32 ~~APPROVAL OR REJECTION OF EACH LOAN REQUEST.~~

~~1 (3) (I) THE ASSOCIATION MAY AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE
2 BOARD'S RECOMMENDATION.~~

~~3 (II) IF THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE ASSOCIATION THAT A
4 LOAN REQUEST BE REJECTED AND THE ASSOCIATION AGREES, THE ASSOCIATION
5 SHALL PROMPTLY SEND A WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE, FIRE,
6 OR RESCUE COMPANY INFORMING THE COMPANY THAT THE REQUEST HAS BEEN
7 REJECTED.~~

~~8 (III) IF THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE ASSOCIATION THAT A
9 LOAN REQUEST BE APPROVED AND THE ASSOCIATION AGREES, THE ASSOCIATION
10 SHALL SUBMIT THE LOAN REQUEST TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR
11 APPROVAL.~~

~~12 (B) UPON FINAL APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE LOAN
13 SHALL BE MADE TO THE REQUESTING VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE, FIRE, OR RESCUE
14 COMPANY.~~

~~15 47E.~~

~~16 (A) THE ASSOCIATION SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE
17 DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT AND TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC
18 WORKS TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:~~

~~19 (1) THE NUMBER OF LOANS MADE DURING THE FISCAL YEAR;~~

~~20 (2) THE ENTITIES THAT RECEIVED A LOAN AND THE AMOUNT OF THE
21 LOAN DURING THE FISCAL YEAR; AND~~

~~22 (3) THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE FOR GRANTING EACH LOAN DURING THE
23 FISCAL YEAR.~~

~~24 (B) THE REPORT SHALL BE DUE ON AUGUST 30 OF EACH FISCAL YEAR.~~

~~25 VOLUNTEER COMPANY ASSISTANCE FUND~~

~~26 46.~~

~~27 (A) (1) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
28 INDICATED.~~

~~29 (2) "ASSOCIATION" MEANS THE MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S
30 ASSOCIATION.~~

~~31 (3) "BOARD" MEANS THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS.~~

~~32 (4) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND
33 MANAGEMENT.~~

1 (5) "VOLUNTEER COMPANY" MEANS A VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE, FIRE,
2 OR RESCUE COMPANY LOCATED IN THE STATE.

3 (B) THERE IS A VOLUNTEER COMPANY ASSISTANCE FUND.

4 (C) THE VOLUNTEER COMPANY ASSISTANCE FUND IS COMPRISED OF:

5 (1) THE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TRUST ACCOUNT; AND

6 (2) THE LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT.

7 (D) (1) THE FUND IS A CONTINUING, NONLAPSING FUND WHICH IS NOT
8 SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

9 (2) THE TREASURER SHALL SEPARATELY HOLD AND THE COMPTROLLER
10 SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

11 (3) ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE PAID INTO
12 THE FUND.

13 (4) AMOUNTS RECEIVED AS REPAYMENTS ON LOANS FROM THE
14 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TRUST ACCOUNT OR THE LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN
15 ACCOUNT SHALL BE PLACED IN THE RESPECTIVE ACCOUNT AND MADE AVAILABLE
16 TO FUND REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

17 (E) THE DEPARTMENT, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD, SHALL ADOPT
18 REGULATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 10, SUBTITLE 1 OF THE STATE
19 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE NECESSARY TO ADMINISTER THE FUND.

20 46A.

21 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "ACCOUNT" MEANS THE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
22 TRUST ACCOUNT.

23 (B) (1) THERE IS AN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TRUST ACCOUNT.

24 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE ACCOUNT IS TO ASSURE ADEQUATE FIRE
25 PROTECTION AND RESCUE SERVICES FOR THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE.

26 (C) AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE ASSOCIATION, THE GOVERNOR IS
27 AUTHORIZED TO INCLUDE AN AMOUNT IN THE STATE BUDGET EACH YEAR FOR THE
28 PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION.

29 (D) A GRANT OR LOAN AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE USED ONLY
30 FOR:

31 (1) APPARATUS EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING ELEVATED EQUIPMENT,
32 PUMPERS, TANKERS, LADDER TRUCKS, AMBULANCES, RESCUE VEHICLES, OR OTHER
33 LARGE EQUIPMENT USED FOR FIRE FIGHTING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES;

34 (2) COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT;

1 (3) PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING HELMETS, TURNOUT COATS
2 AND PANTS, BOOTS, EYESHIELDS, GLOVES, AND SELF-CONTAINED RESPIRATORY
3 PROTECTION UNITS;

4 (4) ANY OTHER EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE ORDINARY
5 FUNCTIONS OF SUPPORTING FIRE FIGHTING AND RESCUE ACTIVITIES; OR

6 (5) FACILITIES USED TO HOUSE FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT,
7 AMBULANCES, AND RESCUE VEHICLES.

8 (E) (1) (I) A VOLUNTEER COMPANY RECEIVING FUNDS UNDER THIS
9 SECTION SHALL PROVIDE AT LEAST A 30% MATCHING DOLLAR AMOUNT FOR GRANTS
10 OR LOANS.

11 (II) IF A VOLUNTEER COMPANY CANNOT REASONABLY PROVIDE
12 THE REQUIRED DOLLAR MATCH PRIOR TO DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS, THE BOARD
13 MAY WAIVE THAT REQUIREMENT OR PROVIDE FOR REPAYMENT OF THE MATCHING
14 DOLLAR AMOUNT WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME NOT TO EXCEED 18
15 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF PURCHASE OF THE EQUIPMENT OR FACILITIES.

16 (2) (I) FUNDS TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED MATCHING DOLLAR
17 AMOUNT MAY INCLUDE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

18 (II) A LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAY NOT REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF
19 MONEY THAT THE VOLUNTEER COMPANY WOULD OTHERWISE BE ENTITLED TO
20 RECEIVE FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF STATE FINANCIAL
21 ASSISTANCE PROVIDED UNDER THIS ACCOUNT.

22 (F) THE BOARD MAY AWARD EITHER A GRANT OR A LOAN OR A COMBINATION
23 OF BOTH FROM THE ACCOUNT, AFTER A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE
24 DEPARTMENT, IF:

25 (1) (I) AN ACT OF GOD OR OTHER UNFORESEEN EVENT HAS
26 SUBSTANTIALLY IMPAIRED THE ABILITY OF A VOLUNTEER COMPANY TO PROVIDE
27 ADEQUATE AND SAFE SERVICE; OR

28 (II) THE VOLUNTEER COMPANY IS UNABLE TO MAINTAIN THE
29 MINIMUM LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE FOR ADEQUATE AND SAFE SERVICE
30 ESTABLISHED BY STANDARDS OF THE ASSOCIATION BECAUSE OF A DEMONSTRATED
31 LACK OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES; AND

32 (2) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE VOLUNTEER COMPANY RECEIVING
33 ASSISTANCE HAVE EXECUTED AN AGREEMENT THAT:

34 (I) PROVIDES THAT FUNDS WILL BE USED AS REPRESENTED IN
35 THE REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO THE BOARD; AND

36 (II) GRANTS TO THE STATE SECURITY IN THE EQUIPMENT OR
37 FACILITIES ACQUIRED WITH THE FUNDS AND IN THE PROCEEDS OF THAT

1 EQUIPMENT OR THOSE FACILITIES AS IS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD TO BE
2 APPROPRIATE AND ADEQUATE.

3 (G) A GRANT OR LOAN AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT:

4 (1) BE USED TO REFINANCE ANY DEBT OR OTHER OBLIGATION OF A
5 VOLUNTEER COMPANY INCURRED BEFORE JULY 1, 1982; OR

6 (2) BE EXPENDED FOR REPLACEMENT OR REPAIR OF ELIGIBLE ITEMS
7 TO THE EXTENT THAT INSURANCE PROCEEDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE
8 PURPOSES.

9 (H) THE BOARD MAY NOT APPROVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE
10 ACCOUNT IF A VOLUNTEER COMPANY HAS NOT MADE A GOOD FAITH EFFORT TO
11 OBTAIN FUNDS FROM ITS LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

12 46B.

13 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO THE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TRUST
14 ACCOUNT.

15 (B) (1) A VOLUNTEER COMPANY SHALL SUBMIT ALL REQUESTS FOR
16 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE TO THE ASSOCIATION FOR
17 APPROVAL BY A BOARD OF REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ASSOCIATION'S
18 BYLAWS.

19 (2) ALL REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SHALL INCLUDE:

20 (I) FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE 2 FISCAL YEARS
21 IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH THE APPLICATION IS MADE;
22 AND

23 (II) THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, IF AN AUDIT WAS
24 CONDUCTED.

25 (3) FOR AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING UNDER THE EMERGENCY
26 ASSISTANCE TRUST ACCOUNT, A VOLUNTEER COMPANY SHALL CERTIFY THAT THE
27 VOLUNTEER COMPANY HAS APPLIED FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM ITS LOCAL
28 GOVERNMENT AND BEEN DENIED, EITHER IN PART OR IN FULL, FUNDING FOR THE
29 REQUEST.

30 (C) (1) IF THE ASSOCIATION DISAPPROVES A REQUEST OR DOES NOT TAKE
31 ACTION WITHIN 45 DAYS OF THE REQUEST, THEN THE VOLUNTEER COMPANY
32 REQUESTING ASSISTANCE MAY APPEAL TO A PANEL COMPRISED OF THE PRESIDENT
33 OF THE ASSOCIATION, THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FIRE
34 AND RESCUE EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMISSION.

35 (2) THE DECISION OF THE APPEALS PANEL SHALL BE FINAL AND NOT
36 SUBJECT TO FURTHER REVIEW.

1 (3) UPON APPROVAL OF A REQUEST FOR THE USE OF FUNDS, THE
2 ASSOCIATION OR THE APPEALS PANEL SHALL TRANSMIT ITS RECOMMENDATION TO
3 THE DEPARTMENT ALONG WITH THE REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND
4 ANY OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

5 (D) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL FORWARD EACH REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL
6 ASSISTANCE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES FOR REVIEW.

7 (2) THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES, UPON REVIEW OF
8 THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, MAY ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT IF THE REQUEST FOR
9 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPEARS JUSTIFIED.

10 (E) THE BOARD MAY AUTHORIZE USE OF THE FUNDS FROM THE EMERGENCY
11 TRUST ACCOUNT UPON RECOMMENDATION BY THE DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE
12 WITH THIS SECTION.

13 (F) UPON WARRANT OF THE COMPTROLLER, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL
14 DISBURSE FUNDS FROM THE FUND TO A VOLUNTEER COMPANY FOR THE PURPOSES
15 OF THIS SUBTITLE, AS AUTHORIZED BY THE BOARD.

16 46C.

17 (A) THE COMPTROLLER MAY AUDIT THE FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE
18 ASSOCIATION IN ORDER TO INSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.

19 (B) (1) FOR EACH VOLUNTEER COMPANY RECEIVING FUNDS UNDER THIS
20 SUBTITLE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REQUIRE THE VOLUNTEER COMPANY TO
21 SUBMIT WITHIN 90 DAYS OF THE RECEIPT OF THE EQUIPMENT OR BENEFICIAL
22 OCCUPANCY:

23 (I) FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH THE
24 FUNDS WERE RECEIVED; AND

25 (II) DOCUMENTATION OF ACTUAL EXPENDITURES.

26 (2) EACH VOLUNTEER COMPANY RECEIVING FUNDS UNDER THIS
27 SUBTITLE SHALL FORWARD THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND THE
28 DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, SUBJECT
29 TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR.

30 (C) THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR SHALL:

31 (1) REVIEW THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND THE DOCUMENTATION
32 SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION TO
33 DETERMINE IF THE FUNDS WERE EXPENDED ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONS OF
34 THE REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD; AND

35 (2) REPORT THE FINDINGS TO THE DEPARTMENT AND, SUBJECT TO §
36 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE JOINT AUDIT COMMITTEE OF
37 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1 46D.

2 AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE ASSOCIATION, THE GOVERNOR IS
3 AUTHORIZED TO INCLUDE THE AMOUNT IN THE STATE BUDGET EACH YEAR TO BE
4 APPROPRIATED TO AND ADMINISTERED BY THE ASSOCIATION TO:

5 (1) FORMULATE, PUBLISH, AND DISTRIBUTE THE FIRE LAWS OF
6 MARYLAND;

7 (2) FORMULATE, PUBLISH, AND DISTRIBUTE AN ANNUAL REPORT AND
8 MONTHLY OR OTHER TIMELY BULLETINS AND REPORTS;

9 (3) PUBLISH AND DISTRIBUTE FIRE PREVENTION MATERIAL;

10 (4) KEEP RECORDS RELATING TO THE ANNUAL INSPECTIONS OF FIRE
11 AND RESCUE APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT, AND FACILITIES; AND

12 (5) ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A DATA BASE ON MANPOWER
13 AVAILABILITY AND TRAINING, OPERATIONAL COST, APPARATUS AVAILABILITY,
14 RESPONSE TIME, STATE AND LOCAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT, AND OTHER RELEVANT
15 FACTORS IN PROVIDING FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES.

16 46E.

17 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "ACCOUNT" MEANS THE LOW INTEREST REVOLVING
18 LOAN ACCOUNT.

19 (B) THERE IS A LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT.

20 (C) THE ACCOUNT SHALL CONSIST OF ANY FUNDS APPROPRIATED IN THE
21 STATE BUDGET.

22 (D) THE BOARD MAY AWARD A LOAN FROM THE ACCOUNT TO PROVIDE A
23 LOAN TO A VOLUNTEER COMPANY TO ASSIST WITH UP TO 75% OF THE COST OF:

24 (1) PURCHASING OR REFURBISHING APPARATUS; AND

25 (2) UPGRADING OR REPLACING FACILITIES NEEDED TO STORE
26 EQUIPMENT.

27 (E) A LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAY NOT REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT
28 THE VOLUNTEER COMPANY WOULD OTHERWISE BE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE FROM
29 THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED
30 UNDER THIS ACCOUNT.

31 46F.

32 (A) FOR THE PURPOSE OF GRANTING LOANS UNDER § 46E OF THIS SUBTITLE,
33 THE ASSOCIATION SHALL:

34 (1) DEVELOP LOAN CRITERIA;

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

3 (3) ESTABLISH A LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT BOARD;
4 AND

5 (4) RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD THE APPROVAL OR DENIAL OF LOANS.

6 (B) A VOLUNTEER COMPANY MAY SUBMIT A LOAN REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL
7 ASSISTANCE TO THE ASSOCIATION.

8 (C) EACH LOAN REQUEST SHALL INCLUDE:

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

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

12 (3) THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT, IF AN AUDIT WAS
13 CONDUCTED.

14 46G.

15 (A) (1) THE LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT BOARD
16 ESTABLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATION UNDER § 46F OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL REVIEW
17 EACH LOAN REQUEST RECEIVED BY A VOLUNTEER COMPANY IN ACCORDANCE WITH
18 CRITERIA DEVELOPED UNDER § 46F OF THIS SUBTITLE.

19 (2) THE LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT BOARD SHALL
20 RECOMMEND TO THE ASSOCIATION THE APPROVAL OR REJECTION OF EACH LOAN
21 REQUEST.

22 (3) (I) THE ASSOCIATION MAY AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE LOW
23 INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT BOARD RECOMMENDATION.

24 (II) IF THE LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT BOARD
25 RECOMMENDS TO THE ASSOCIATION THAT A LOAN REQUEST BE REJECTED AND THE
26 ASSOCIATION AGREES, THE ASSOCIATION SHALL PROMPTLY SEND A WRITTEN
27 NOTICE TO THE VOLUNTEER COMPANY STATING THAT THE REQUEST HAS BEEN
28 REJECTED.

29 (III) IF THE LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT BOARD
30 RECOMMENDS TO THE ASSOCIATION THAT A LOAN REQUEST BE APPROVED AND THE
31 ASSOCIATION AGREES, THE ASSOCIATION SHALL SUBMIT THE LOAN REQUEST TO
32 THE BOARD FOR APPROVAL.

33 (B) UPON FINAL APPROVAL BY THE BOARD, THE LOAN SHALL BE MADE TO
34 THE REQUESTING VOLUNTEER COMPANY.

1 46H.

2 (A) THE ASSOCIATION SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE
3 DEPARTMENT AND TO THE BOARD BY AUGUST 30 OF EACH FISCAL YEAR TO INCLUDE
4 THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

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

6 (2) THE ENTITIES THAT RECEIVED A LOAN AND THE AMOUNT OF THE
7 LOAN DURING THE FISCAL YEAR;

8 (3) THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE FOR GRANTING EACH LOAN DURING THE
9 FISCAL YEAR;

10 (4) THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF EACH VOLUNTEER COMPANY FOR
11 THE FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH THE FUNDS WERE RECEIVED; AND

12 (5) DOCUMENTATION OF EACH VOLUNTEER COMPANY'S ACTUAL
13 EXPENDITURES.

14 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

15 (1) REVIEW THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND THE DOCUMENTATION
16 SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION TO DETERMINE IF THE FUNDS
17 WERE EXPENDED ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL
18 ASSISTANCE AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD; AND

19 (2) REPORT THE FINDINGS TO THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION
20 COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

21 **Article - Transportation**

22 ~~13-954.~~

23 (a) ~~In this section, "motor vehicle" means a:~~

24 (1) ~~Class A (passenger) vehicle;~~

25 (2) ~~Class B (for hire) vehicle;~~

26 (3) ~~Class C (funeral and ambulance) vehicle;~~

27 (4) ~~Class D (motorcycle) vehicle;~~

28 (5) ~~Class E (truck) vehicle;~~

29 (6) ~~Class F (tractor) vehicle;~~

30 (7) ~~Class H (school) vehicle;~~

31 (8) ~~Class J (vanpool) vehicle;~~

- 1 (9) Class M (multipurpose) vehicle;
- 2 (10) Class P (passenger bus) vehicle;
- 3 (11) Class Q (limousine) vehicle; or
- 4 (12) Vehicle within any other class designated by the Administrator.

5 (b) ~~In addition to the registration fee otherwise required by this title, the~~
6 ~~owner of any motor vehicle registered under this title shall pay a surcharge of [\$8]~~
7 ~~\$11 per year for each motor vehicle registered.~~

8 13-955.

9 (a) In this section, "Fund" means the Maryland Emergency Medical System
10 Operations Fund.

11 (b) (1) There is a Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations Fund.

12 (2) The Fund is a continuing, nonlapsing fund which is not subject to §
13 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

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

17 (c) The Fund consists of:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 (6) THE LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN FUND ACCOUNT UNDER THE
5 VOLUNTEER COMPANY ASSISTANCE FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS
6 OF ARTICLE 38A, §§ 47A THROUGH 47C §§ 46E THROUGH 46H OF THE CODE.

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

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

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

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
14 effect ~~October 1, 2000~~ July 1, 2000.