
By: **Senator Munson**
Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2000
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **William H. Amoss Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Fund - Thermal Imaging**
3 **Devices**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the use of moneys in the William H. Amoss Fire,
5 Rescue, and Ambulance Fund to purchase thermal imaging devices; requiring
6 that the Governor place in the State budget for next year a certain sum, in
7 addition to the moneys that would normally be allocated to the Fund, to be
8 equitably distributed to the counties for the purpose of purchasing thermal
9 imaging devices; requiring that the Fund ensure that each county receives
10 enough money to purchase a device without having to reduce the moneys
11 otherwise available for other allowable purposes; expanding a limitation on the
12 use of the moneys in the Fund; and generally relating to the use of the moneys
13 in the William H. Amoss Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Fund to purchase
14 thermal imaging devices.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article 38A - Fires and Investigations
17 Section 45B
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

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

23 45B.

24 (a) The Senator William H. Amoss Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Fund is
25 established to promote:

26 (1) The delivery of effective and high quality fire protection, rescue, and
27 ambulance services to the citizens of this State;

1 (2) Increased financial support for fire, rescue, and ambulance
2 companies by local governments; and

3 (3) The continued financial viability of volunteer fire, rescue, and
4 ambulance companies given the greatly increased costs of apparatus and other types
5 of equipment.

6 (b) (1) The Secretary shall administer the Fund in accordance with this
7 subtitle and other applicable law.

8 (2) Subject to the limitations in paragraph (3) of this subsection, the
9 Secretary may adopt procedures for the implementation of this subtitle including
10 additional auditing and reporting requirements.

11 (3) The Secretary may not:

12 (i) Except as otherwise expressly provided under this subtitle,
13 impose training or operational requirements as a precondition to receipt of funds; or

14 (ii) Require that capital equipment purchased with State funds
15 have a useful life expectancy of greater than 1 year.

16 (c) (1) The Fund shall consist of any moneys appropriated in the State
17 budget.

18 (2) Payments out of the Fund shall be made to each county by the State
19 Treasurer upon warrant of the State Comptroller as authorized by the Secretary.
20 Payments shall be made in approximately equal amounts on or about August 15,
21 November 15, February 15, and May 15, to the appropriate county.

22 (d) (1) State funds provided under this section may only be used for any 1 or
23 more of the following:

24 (i) Acquisition or rehabilitation of fire or rescue apparatus,
25 including ambulances;

26 (ii) Acquisition or rehabilitation of capital equipment used in
27 connection with fire or rescue [apparatus] APPARATUSES, INCLUDING THERMAL
28 IMAGING DEVICES; and

29 (iii) Rehabilitation of facilities used primarily to house fire fighting
30 apparatus, equipment, ambulances, and rescue vehicles.

31 (2) State funds provided under this section may not be used for any of
32 the following:

33 (i) Administrative costs;

34 (ii) Compensation or fringe benefits to employees or members of
35 county governments, or fire, rescue, or ambulance companies;

- 1 (iii) Travel or meal expenses;
- 2 (iv) Fuel, utility, or routine maintenance costs of facilities or
3 apparatus;
- 4 (v) Acquisition of new or replacement fire hydrants, water mains,
5 or emergency alarm systems not installed [at] AT, OR CARRIED AND USED BY, a fire,
6 rescue, or ambulance facility;
- 7 (vi) Insurance;
- 8 (vii) Fund-raising activities;
- 9 (viii) Refinancing of any debt or other obligation incurred before July
10 1, 1985;
- 11 (ix) Replacement or repair of eligible items to the extent that
12 insurance proceeds are available;
- 13 (x) Costs associated with the "911" emergency number system; or
- 14 (xi) Land or interests in land.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Governor shall place
16 in the fiscal year 2002 State budget, in the allocation for the William H. Amoss Fire,
17 Rescue, and Ambulance Fund, a sum of \$1 million, in addition to the moneys that
18 would normally be allocated to the Fund, to be equitably distributed to the counties
19 for the purpose of purchasing thermal imaging devices. Notwithstanding the
20 provisions of Article 38A, § 45C of the Annotated Code of Maryland, in distributing
21 the moneys for thermal imaging devices, the Fund shall ensure that each county
22 receives enough money to purchase at least one device without having to reduce the
23 moneys otherwise available for other purposes allowable under Article 38A, § 45B(d)
24 of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

25 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 July 1, 2000.