

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 408 (Somerset County Delegation)

Commerce and Government Matters

Budget and Taxation

Somerset County - Volunteer Fire Companies - Appropriations

This bill increases the county appropriations made by the County Commissioners of Somerset County to volunteer fire companies operating in the county.

The bill is effective June 1, 2001.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Somerset County expenditures would increase by \$5,200 in FY 2002 and by \$20,300 in FY 2005.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The public laws of Somerset County require the county commissioners to appropriate funds to organized volunteer fire departments in the county.

Background: There are eight organized volunteer fire departments in Somerset County: Crisfield, Princess Anne, Marion, Deal Island-Chance, Ewell, Mount Vernon, Tylerton, and Fairmount. The county commissioners have been providing funds to the volunteer fire companies for over 25 years. Fiscal 2001 was the first year the Fairmount Volunteer Fire Company received funds from the county.

Local Fiscal Effect: Somerset County is currently required to provide \$204,000 annually to volunteer fire companies operating in the county. Pursuant to this bill, the county would be required to provide \$209,000 to the volunteer fire companies in fiscal 2002, which results in a \$5,200 increase in county expenditures. Annual payments to volunteer fire companies increase to \$214,300 in fiscal 2003, \$219,500 in fiscal 2004, and \$224,300 in fiscal 2005 and each year thereafter. Accordingly, county expenditures will increase by \$10,300 in fiscal 2003; by \$15,500 in fiscal 2004; and by \$20,300 in fiscal 2005 and each year thereafter.

The Fire Chief of Somerset County requested increased funding from the county commissioners for volunteer fire companies. The county commissioners provided a total increase of 10% over four years. The county commissioners have placed no restrictions on the county funds and the volunteer fire departments typically use the funds for operational budget items. The increases per volunteer fire department range from \$100 annually to \$1,100 annually.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Somerset County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – February 13, 2001
ef/hb

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