

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 773 (Delegate Hurson)
Health and Government Operations

Emergency Medical Services Board - Inter-Facility Helicopter Transport

This bill requires the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board to adopt regulations by January 1, 2004, that provide for the inter-facility helicopter transport of patients by licensed private helicopter carriers. The regulations must specify: (1) that when aeromedical transport is the indicated method for transporting a patient between facilities, a licensed private helicopter must provide the transport; and (2) the limited circumstances under which a Maryland State Police Medevac helicopter may provide the transport.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2003.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The adoption of regulations could be handled with existing EMS board budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful. Private helicopters may gain increased business under the regulations.

Analysis

Current Law: The EMS board must adopt an emergency medical system plan to ensure the effective coordination and evaluation of emergency medical services delivered in the State.

During the 2002 session, the budget committees requested that the EMS Board submit a plan setting forth the development of a system that provides for the inter-facility transfer of patients by private helicopter. The Department of State Police (DSP) considers inter-facility transfers to be a secondary mission for the department. However, because it is the staff in the sending and receiving hospitals that make the decision on whether to call a private helicopter or a DSP helicopter to perform the inter-facility transfer, there is concern that the State Police are being called even when other “appropriate service” is available.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

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