

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 275
Economic Matters

(Delegate Bozman, *et al.*)

Volunteer Fire and Emergency Medical Services Personnel - Mandatory Physical Examinations - Prohibition

This bill prohibits the Commissioner of Labor and Industry from adopting regulations that mandate medical or physical evaluations for volunteer firefighters or emergency medical service providers. It does permit the Commissioner to adopt regulations or standards that authorize a volunteer firefighter or emergency medical services provider to undergo an optional medical or physical evaluation. Emergency medical service provider is defined as an individual licensed or certified by the Maryland Emergency Medical Services Board.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: This bill would not materially affect State government operations.

Injured Workers' Insurance Fund: To the extent that the Injured Workers' Insurance Fund covers local jurisdictions or businesses that have volunteer firefighters or emergency medical service providers, future claims may increase.

Local Effect: The bill would not directly affect local governments.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Commissioner of Labor and Industry has not adopted regulations mandating medical or physical evaluations of volunteer firefighters or volunteer emergency medical service providers.

Background: Prince George's County indicates that it spent \$122,422 on physicals in fiscal 2002. Anne Arundel County spent approximately \$40,000 on volunteer physicals, primarily as a condition of response certification. Approximately 180 volunteer physicals are performed annually. The county requires physicals of career firefighters.

Local jurisdictions indicate that identifying serious physical limitations prior to a work-related injury occurring significantly decreases the exposure of the jurisdiction to risk. This bill would increase risk exposure. Anne Arundel County purchases a supplemental insurance policy for volunteer firefighters and volunteer emergency medical services personnel.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Montgomery County; Prince George's County; Garrett County; Dorchester County; Baltimore County; Anne Arundel County; Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

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