

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 424

(Delegate Elmore)

Environmental Matters

Budget and Taxation

Somerset County - Volunteer Fire Departments - Appropriations

This bill increases the county appropriations made by the Somerset County Commissioners to volunteer fire companies operating in the county. The bill also provides that the required appropriation for fiscal 2009 must remain in effect for subsequent years unless altered by future enactment.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2004.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Somerset County expenditures would increase by \$5,550 in FY 2006 and by \$22,800 in FY 2009.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Exhibit 1 details fiscal 2005 funding in current law and the fiscal 2006 through 2009 funding required by the bill to volunteer fire companies in Somerset County.

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. The Somerset County Commissioners have been providing funds to volunteer fire companies for over 28 years.

Appropriations made by the commissioners to volunteer fire companies operating in the county were last changed by Chapter 74 of 2001 and increased funding for fiscal 2002 through 2005.

Local Fiscal Effect: Somerset County is required to provide \$224,300 annually to volunteer fire companies operating in the county beginning in fiscal 2005. Pursuant to this bill, the county would be required to provide \$229,850 to the volunteer fire companies in fiscal 2006, which results in a \$5,550 increase in county expenditures. County expenditures will increase in future years as set forth in Exhibit 1.

The Fire Chief of Somerset County requested increased funding from the county commissioners for volunteer fire companies. This bill provides a total increase of 10% over four years. No restrictions are placed on the county funds, and the volunteer fire departments typically use the funds for operational budget items. The cumulative increases per volunteer fire department over the four years range from \$650 to \$4,950.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 2004
mam/ljm Revised - House Third Reader - March 24, 2004

Analysis by: Christopher J. Kelter

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510

Exhibit 1
Somerset County
Appropriations to Volunteer Fire Companies

	<u>FY 2005</u>	<u>FY 2006</u>	<u>FY 2007</u>	<u>FY 2008</u>	<u>FY 2009</u>	FY 05 - FY 09 Change in Appropriation
Crisfield VFC	\$48,200	\$49,400	\$50,600	\$51,850	\$53,150	\$4,950
Princess Anne VFC	48,200	49,400	50,600	51,850	53,150	4,950
Marion VFC	30,700	31,500	32,250	33,000	33,800	3,100
Deal Island-Chance VFD	26,700	27,350	28,000	28,700	29,400	2,700
Ewell FD	21,300	21,800	22,350	22,900	23,450	2,150
Mount Vernon VFC	21,300	21,800	22,350	22,900	23,450	2,150
Fairmount VFC	21,300	21,800	22,350	22,900	23,450	2,150
Tylerton VFC	<u>6,600</u>	<u>6,800</u>	<u>6,900</u>	<u>7,050</u>	<u>7,250</u>	<u>650</u>
Total Funding	\$224,300	\$225,350	\$235,430	\$241,150	\$247,100	\$22,800
Cumulative Change in Funding	n/a	\$5,550	\$11,100	\$16,850	\$22,800	

Note: Fiscal 2005 appropriations are current law.
