

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 840

(Delegate Elmore)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Somerset County - Fire Companies - Appropriations

This bill increases the amount of funds that the Somerset County Commissioners are required to appropriate annually to the volunteer fire companies in Somerset County for fiscal 2006 through 2010. The required appropriation for fiscal 2010 would remain in effect for subsequent years unless altered by future legislation.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Somerset County expenditures would increase by \$29,150 in FY 2006 and by \$39,100 in FY 2010. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Exhibit 1 details the increase in the appropriations for each fire company for fiscal 2006 through 2010.

Current Law: The public local laws of Somerset County require the county commissioners to appropriate funds to organized volunteer fire companies in the county. Appropriations made by the commissioners to volunteer fire companies operating in the county were last changed by Chapter 343 of 2004, and increased funding for fiscal 2005 through 2009. Chapter 343 also required that the fiscal 2009 funding levels remain the same for each year thereafter, unless changed by legislation.

Background: There are eight organized volunteer fire companies in Somerset County. Somerset County advises that due to escalating gas, oil, insurance, and other costs faced by the fire departments, the appropriations set by Chapter 343 of 2004 were insufficient to meet these expenditures. Additionally, the county advises that when comparing the number of alarm calls made by the Mt. Vernon and Fairmount fire companies, they were comparable to the number of alarm calls made by the Deal Island fire company, yet the Deal Island fire company received a greater amount of funding from the county. Therefore, the county seeks to make the appropriation levels for these three fire companies more equitable.

Local Fiscal Effect: Fiscal 2005 appropriations to the volunteer fire companies would not be affected by this bill. As shown in Exhibit 1, total appropriations to volunteer fire companies for fiscal 2006 would increase by \$29,150. Over the period between fiscal 2006 and 2010, aggregate appropriations for volunteer fire companies would increase by \$161,500.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 28, 2005
ncs/hlb

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Exhibit 1
Change in Appropriation for Somerset County Volunteer Fire Departments
FY 2005 – 2010

	<u>FY 2005</u>	<u>FY 2006</u>	<u>FY 2007</u>	<u>FY 2008</u>	<u>FY 2009</u>	<u>FY 2010</u>	<u>Total Change</u>
Crisfield VFC							
Current Appropriation	\$48,200	\$49,400	\$50,600	\$51,850	\$53,150	\$53,150	
Appropriation under HB 840	48,200	53,150	54,500	55,850	57,250	58,700	
Change	0	3,750	3,900	4,000	4,100	5,550	\$21,300
Princess Anne VFC							
Current Appropriation	48,200	49,400	50,600	51,850	53,150	53,150	
Appropriation under HB 840	48,200	53,150	54,500	55,850	57,250	58,700	
Change	0	3,750	3,900	4,000	4,100	5,550	\$21,300
Marion VFC							
Current Appropriation	30,700	31,500	32,250	33,000	33,800	33,800	
Appropriation under HB 840	30,700	33,800	34,650	35,500	36,400	37,350	
Change	0	2,300	2,400	2,500	2,600	3,550	\$13,350
Deal Island - Chance VFC							
Current Appropriation	26,700	27,350	28,000	28,700	29,400	29,400	
Appropriation under HB 840	26,700	29,400	30,150	30,900	31,700	32,500	
Change	0	2,050	2,150	2,200	2,300	3,100	\$11,800
Ewell FD							
Current Appropriation	21,300	21,800	22,350	22,900	23,450	23,450	
Appropriation under HB 840	21,300	23,450	24,050	24,650	25,250	25,900	
Change	0	1,650	1,700	1,750	1,800	2,450	\$9,350
Mt. Vernon VFC							
Current Appropriation	21,300	21,800	22,350	22,900	23,450	23,450	
Appropriation under HB 840	21,300	29,400	30,150	30,900	31,700	32,500	
Change	0	7,600	7,800	8,000	8,250	9,050	\$40,700
Tylerton VFC							
Current Appropriation	6,600	6,800	6,900	7,050	7,250	7,250	
Appropriation under HB 840	6,600	7,250	7,450	7,650	7,850	8,050	
Change	0	450	550	600	600	800	\$3,000
Fairmount VFC							
Current Appropriation	21,300	21,800	22,350	22,900	23,450	23,450	
Appropriation under HB 840	21,300	29,400	30,150	30,900	31,700	32,500	
Change	0	7,600	7,800	8,000	8,250	9,050	\$40,700
Total Current Appropriation	\$224,300	\$229,850	\$235,400	\$241,150	\$247,100	\$247,100	
Total Appropriation under HB 840	\$224,300	\$259,000	\$265,600	\$272,200	\$279,100	\$286,200	
Total Change	\$0	\$29,150	\$30,200	\$31,050	\$32,000	\$39,100	\$161,500