

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 239

(The Speaker)(By Request – Administration)

Health and Government Operations

Budget and Taxation

Department of State Police - Transfer of the Senator William H. Amoss Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Fund to the Maryland Emergency Management Agency

This Administration bill transfers the functions, powers, duties, assets, and liabilities of the Senator William H. Amoss Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Fund from the Department of State Police to the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The requirements of this bill could be handled with the existing budgeted resources of MEMA. Removing the fund from the State Police would not significantly impact finances or operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: A small business impact statement was not provided by the Administration in time for inclusion in this fiscal note. A revised fiscal note will be issued when the Administration's assessment becomes available.

Analysis

Current Law: The State Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Fund, established in 1985, was named after Senator William H. Amoss in 1998. The fund was established to promote:

- the delivery of effective emergency services to the citizens;

- increased financial support for emergency services companies by local governments; and
- the continued financial viability of volunteer emergency services companies.

As a condition to receiving financial assistance from the fund, each county must participate in the Maryland Fire Incident Reporting System and Ambulance Information System, as appropriate.

Background: MEMA is responsible for coordinating the State response to any major emergency or disaster. This includes supporting local governments as needed or requesting and coordinating assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

MEMA is organized within the Maryland Military Department. In an emergency situation MEMA may answer directly to the Governor.

MEMA gets its authority from Article 5 of the Annotated Code. This Article creates MEMA and authorizes the political subdivisions of the State to create emergency management offices of their own. Article 5 also gives the Governor emergency powers – such as temporarily waiving State laws that may interfere with emergency response operations.

MEMA staff consists of approximately 40 emergency management professionals. The agency coordinates various federal programs including Superfund Amendments Reauthorization Act, Hazardous Material Transportation Act, and Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program.

The fund has revenues and expenditures of \$10 million, annually. The Governor's allowance shows anticipated allocations to counties as follows in fiscal 2006:

Allegany	\$243,556
Anne Arundel	817,490
Baltimore	976,335
Calvert	1,195,019
Caroline	200,000
Carroll	264,950
Cecil	205,003
Charles	230,941
Dorchester	214,867
Frederick	360,195
Garrett	200,000
Harford	370,816
Howard	385,066
Kent	206,649
Montgomery	1,304,572
Prince George's	1,112,299
Queen Anne's	200,000
Somerset	200,000
St. Mary's	200,000
Talbot	215,339
Washington	231,514
Wicomico	224,668
Worcester	<u>240,721</u>
Total	\$10,000,000

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 214 (The President)(By Request – Administration) – Budget and Taxation.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Maryland Emergency Management Agency, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 1, 2005
n/jr

Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

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