

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 562

(Senator Haines)

Judicial Proceedings

Environmental Matters

Public Safety - Fire Companies - Limited Access to Private Water Sources

This bill stipulates that if no public water source is available to a fire company to supply water to extinguish a fire or mitigate an emergency, then the fire company may enter private property in order to obtain water from a private source, such as a privately owned pond, lake, river, stream, canal, cistern, or swimming pool.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Authorizing fire companies to obtain water from a private source if no public source is available would not materially impact local government finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Statute provides that generally, except for any willful or grossly negligent act, a fire company or rescue company and the personnel of a fire company or rescue company are immune from civil liability for any act or omission in the course of performing their duties.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1104 (Delegate Stull, *et al.*) – Environmental Matters.

Information Source(s): Cecil County, Harford County, Montgomery County,
Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 20, 2006
ncs/jr

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