

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1104

(Delegate Stull, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

---

**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:** SB 562 (Senator Haines) – Judicial Proceedings.

**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

---

Analysis by: Joshua A. Watters

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