

CHAPTER 180

(House Bill 1078)

AN ACT concerning

Public Safety – Maryland State Firemen’s Association – Uses of Appropriation

FOR the purpose of altering the purposes for which the Maryland State Firemen’s Association may use money appropriated in the State budget; altering the purposes for which the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund may be used for a certain fiscal year; and generally relating to the Maryland State Firemen’s Association.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Public Safety
Section 8–205
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2003 Volume and 2006 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Public Safety

8–205.

(a) After consultation with the Association, the Governor may include in the State budget each year an amount for the purposes set forth in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The Association may use money appropriated under subsection (a) of this section to:

(1) formulate, publish, and distribute the fire laws of Maryland **AND OTHER STATE AND FEDERAL STANDARDS, LAWS, GUIDELINES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS**;

(2) formulate, publish, and distribute an annual report and monthly or other timely bulletins and reports;

(3) [publish and distribute fire prevention material] **PURCHASE, PUBLISH, AND DISTRIBUTE FIRE PREVENTION, EMERGENCY SERVICES, AND SAFETY EDUCATION MATERIALS AND SPONSOR SEMINARS AND OTHER PUBLIC FORUMS TO DISSEMINATE THIS INFORMATION TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AND RESIDENTS OF THE STATE;**

(4) [keep] **MAINTAIN AND DISTRIBUTE** records that relate to the annual inspections of fire and rescue equipment and facilities; [and]

(5) establish and maintain a database on manpower availability and training, operational cost, equipment availability, response time, State and local financial support, and other relevant factors in providing fire and rescue services;

(6) **MAINTAIN MEMBERSHIP THROUGH FEES, SUBSCRIPTIONS, AND MEETING ATTENDANCE IN ORGANIZATIONS THAT DISSEMINATE TRAINING AND EDUCATION AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR MEMBERS AND REPRESENT THEIR INTERESTS ON A STATE AND NATIONAL LEVEL;**

(7) **PROVIDE FUEL, INSURANCE, AND MAINTENANCE TO VEHICLES OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE ASSOCIATION AND USED IN REPRESENTING THE VOLUNTEERS AND DISSEMINATING INFORMATION THROUGHOUT THE STATE;**

(8) **PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES INCLUDING ACCOUNTING, AUDITING, AND LEGAL CONSULTATION AND OPERATIONAL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE OBJECTIVES ESTABLISHED IN THIS SUBSECTION; AND**

(9) **PROMOTE, DISSEMINATE, AND ADVOCATE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT PERTAIN TO IMPROVING THE SAFETY, HEALTH, AND WELLBEING OF FIRE AND RESCUE PERSONNEL THROUGHOUT THE STATE.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding any provisions of law, in fiscal year 2008 the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund established under § 8-202 of the Public Safety Article may be used for the purpose of providing grants to the Maryland State Firemen's Association for administrative expenses and grants to widows and orphans.

SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2007.