

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 689

(Harford County Delegation)

Judiciary

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Maryland Emergency Management Assistance Compact - Emergency  
Responders

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This bill defines the term “emergency responder” under provisions governing the Maryland Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. The bill’s provisions would not affect the operations or finances of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency or the State Fire Marshal.

**Local Effect:** Minimal. The bill’s provisions may require counties to revise their emergency response plans to accommodate the additional definition. It is assumed that this could be done with existing budgeted resources in each county.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) is a nationwide program that provides for mutual aid among states for disaster assistance. All 50 states belong to this compact, in addition to the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

The compact also provides for mutual cooperation in emergency related exercises, testing, or other training activities using equipment or personnel simulating performance of any aspect of the giving and receiving of aid by party jurisdictions during emergencies.

The senior elected official of each jurisdiction is required to designate an authorized representative, who may request assistance of another party jurisdiction by contacting the authorized representative of that jurisdiction. The compact's provisions apply only to requests for assistance made by and to authorized representatives.

Under §3-101 of the Public Safety Article, "law enforcement officer" means an individual who, in an official capacity, is authorized by law to make arrests and who is a member of one of the following law enforcement agencies:

- the Department of State Police;
- the Police Department of Baltimore City;
- the Baltimore City School Police Force;
- the Baltimore City Watershed Police Force;
- a county police department, bureau, or force;
- a municipal police department, bureau, or force;
- a county sheriff's office;
- a bicounty agency's police department, bureau, or force;
- the Maryland Transportation Authority Police;
- the police forces of the Department of Transportation;
- the police forces of the Department of Natural Resources;
- the Field Enforcement Bureau of the Comptroller's Office;
- the Housing Authority of Baltimore City Police Force;
- the Crofton Police Department;
- the police force of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;
- the police force of the Department of General Services;
- the police force of the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation;
- the police forces of the University System of Maryland;
- the police force of Morgan State University;
- the Office of State Fire Marshal;
- the Ocean Pines Police Department; or
- the police force of the Baltimore City Community College.

The term does not include: (1) an individual who serves at the pleasure of the Police Commissioner of Baltimore City; (2) an individual who serves at the pleasure of the appointing authority of a charter county; (3) the police chief of a municipal corporation;

(4) an officer who is in probationary status on initial entry into the law enforcement agency except if an allegation of brutality in the execution of the officer's duties is made; (5) a Montgomery County fire and explosive investigator; or (6) an Anne Arundel County or City of Annapolis fire and explosive investigator.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 576 (Senator Jacobs) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Emergency Management Agency, Montgomery County, Kent County, Washington County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 27, 2007  
ncs/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 21, 2007  
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Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

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