

HOUSE BILL 864

L2

8lr2136

By: **St. Mary's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2008

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **St. Mary's County - Loans - Purchase of New Emergency Equipment**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the percentage of the purchase price of certain
4 firefighting, rescue, and emergency medical services machinery or equipment
5 that St. Mary's County is authorized to loan to certain persons under certain
6 circumstances; and generally relating to loans made by St. Mary's County.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 The Public Local Laws of St. Mary's County
9 Section 46-2 A. and G.
10 Article 19 - Public Local Laws of Maryland
11 (2007 Edition, as amended)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 The Public Local Laws of St. Mary's County
14 Section 46-2 H.
15 Article 19 - Public Local Laws of Maryland
16 (2007 Edition, as amended)

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

19 **Article 19 - St. Mary's County**

20 46-2.

21 A. In this section, the following words have the meanings indicated:

22 Construction means construction, reconstruction, improvement, enlargement,
23 expansion, alteration, rehabilitation, and repair of buildings and facilities necessary
24 for the operation of volunteer fire, ambulance, and rescue departments.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Construction costs includes, but is not limited to, architects' and engineers' fees,
2 costs of building means of access, and costs of extending utility systems.

3 County means the body politic and corporate of the State of Maryland known as
4 the County Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

5 Fire fighting equipment means:

6 (1) Necessary furnishing;

7 (2) Fire fighting, rescue and emergency medical equipment; and

8 (3) Fixed, permanent equipment used and operated by volunteer fire,
9 ambulance, and rescue departments.

10 Fund means the St. Mary's County Capital Revolving Financial Fund for Fire
11 Fighting Equipment and Facilities.

12 Land acquisition means the acquisition of real and personal property for the
13 construction of buildings to house fire fighting, rescue and emergency medical service
14 equipment and services.

15 G. (1) A volunteer fire, ambulance, or rescue department shall apply for
16 loans from the Fund established under this section on forms as prescribed by the
17 Board of County Commissioners.

18 (2) The application shall contain information necessary to evaluate the
19 requested loan for need, financial ability of borrower, sources of repayment, proposed
20 costs and expenditures, fair value of complete projects, normal or useful life of
21 equipment security for the loan, and other information as may be appropriate or
22 useful in evaluating the loan application.

23 (3) The St. Mary's County Fire Board shall:

24 (a) Review and evaluate loan applications from the volunteer
25 fire departments for need, practicality, and financial ability of the borrower; and

26 (b) Prepare a written recommendation for the need, practicality,
27 and financial ability of a loan applicant and forward the recommendation to the St.
28 Mary's County Emergency Services Committee.

29 (4) The St. Mary's County Ambulance and Rescue Association shall:

30 (a) Review and evaluate loan applications from the volunteer
31 ambulance and rescue departments for need, practicality, and financial ability of the
32 borrower; and

1 (b) Prepare a written recommendation for the need,
2 practicality, and financial ability of a loan applicant and forward the recommendation
3 to the St. Mary's County Emergency Services Committee.

4 (5) The St. Mary's County Emergency Services Committee shall:

5 (a) Evaluate the recommendations of the St. Mary's County Fire
6 Board and the St. Mary's Country Ambulance and Rescue Association for content and
7 assign a priority based on the availability of loan funds in the Fund, past requests,
8 need of the respective organizations, and any other relevant factors applicable during
9 its deliberations; and

10 (b) Forward all loan applications and submit its priority
11 recommendations to the County Commissioners.

12 (6) An officer of the county designated by the Board of County
13 Commissioners shall review loan applications in accordance with the priority assigned
14 by the St. Mary's County Emergency Services Committee.

15 (7) Subject to the provisions of subsections E and F of this section, a
16 loan may be approved by the County Commissioners up to the amount requested by a
17 loan applicant if sufficient moneys exist in the Fund.

18 H. (1) The county may loan up to [75] **90** percent of the purchase price of
19 new fire fighting, rescue, and emergency medical services machinery and equipment
20 for a term not to exceed the normal useful life of the equipment as determined by
21 National Fire Protection Association standards or 15 years, whichever is less.

22 (2) (a) The county may loan up to 90 percent of the costs of land
23 acquisition and construction costs.

24 (b) The county may permit a project previously financed from
25 other sources to be refinanced under this paragraph (2), subject to the 90 percent
26 limitation.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 October 1, 2008.