

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 953

(Anne Arundel County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services in Anne Arundel County -
Agreements with Federal Government - Reimbursement**

This bill requires an authorized agreement between the federal government and a fire, rescue, or emergency medical services entity in Anne Arundel County to include a provision that entitles the county entity to obtain reimbursement from the appropriate federal authority for all or part of the cost of providing fire protection on property under U.S. jurisdiction in accordance with federal law. Under current law, this requirement applies statewide, except in Anne Arundel County. The bill eliminates the exemption for Anne Arundel County.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. Reimbursements to Anne Arundel County from the federal government for any of the covered services are not anticipated.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A fire, rescue, or emergency medical services entity may enter into an agreement with the federal government to provide fire fighting or rescue activities on property under the jurisdiction of the United States. Such an agreement must be limited to the provision of fire fighting or rescue equipment and personnel or both, and include specified waivers or provisions. An authorized agreement between the federal government and a fire, rescue, or emergency medical services entity must include a

provision that entitles the entity to obtain reimbursement from the appropriate federal authority for all or part of the cost of providing fire protection on property under U.S. jurisdiction in accordance with federal law.

Anne Arundel County is the only jurisdiction exempted from this requirement.

A “fire, rescue, or emergency medical services entity” means:

- a governmental subdivision, by its appropriate designated authority;
- a board or fire commission of a fire department or governmental subdivision;
- a fire department or fire company;
- a rescue squad; or
- an emergency medical services unit, including an entity that provides emergency medical services at any level.

Background: The exemption for Anne Arundel County was created by Chapter 222 of 1986, when there were reciprocal use agreements for fire and rescue emergencies only between Anne Arundel County and the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Coast Guard, and Fort Meade.

Negotiations are currently underway between Anne Arundel County and Fort Meade to extend the agreement to emergency medical services. Anne Arundel County does not expect to seek reimbursement for any of the covered services under an agreement with the federal government, but believes that this bill would allow reimbursement payments if ever offered by a federal government entity such as Fort Meade.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 767 (Senator Astle) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel County, Department of State Police, Workers’ Compensation Commission, Department of Legislative Services

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