

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 289
Finance

(Senator DeGrange)

Public Safety - Emergency Medical Services Board - Membership

This bill increases the membership of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board to 13 by adding a helicopter pilot employed by the Department of State Police Aviation Division and an additional member from the public at large.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements can be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The EMS Board consists of 11 members, including (1) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene or a designee; (2) a representative of the University of Maryland, Baltimore; (3) the chairperson of the advisory council; (4) two physicians; (5) a nurse; (6) one career and one volunteer firefighter, EMS, or rescue squad representative; (7) a hospital administrator; and (8) two members from the public at large, one of whom must reside in a county with a population of less than 175,000. Members are appointed by the Governor and must have a demonstrated interest or experience in the delivery of emergency medical services.

Background: The EMS Board governs the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS). Its responsibilities include developing and adopting an EMS plan, adopting regulations for ambulance service licensing, approving EMS

provider training courses, examining and certifying EMS personnel, appointing the Provider Review Panel, taking disciplinary action against EMS personnel, administering the Public Access Automated External Defibrillator Program, and with the approval of the Governor, appointing the executive director of MIEMSS, who serves at the pleasure of the EMS Board. The EMS Board also appoints an advisory committee, which advises and assists the EMS Board in performing its functions.

MIEMSS oversees a statewide EMS system that includes over 30,000 Maryland-certified EMS providers and fosters the integration of the delivery of pre-hospital emergency care with 48 hospital emergency departments, 9 trauma centers, and the Department of State Police Medevac helicopter system that provides primary scene transports. MIEMSS also regulates commercial ground and air ambulance services that provide 166,661 inter-hospital ground and 4,700 inter-hospital air transports annually.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: This bill is identical to HB 556 and SB 522 of 2008, which received unfavorable reports from the House Health and Government Operations and Senate Finance committees, respectively.

Cross File: HB 265 (Delegate G. Clagett, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2009
mcp/mwc

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