

# HOUSE BILL 1555

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EMERGENCY BILL

0lr3610

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By: **Delegate Conway**

Rules suspended

Introduced and read first time: March 15, 2010

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

Re-referred to: Health and Government Operations, March 20, 2010

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: April 2, 2010

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Funds – Distribution of Money to Companies**  
3 **Outside the State**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the entities to which money from the Senator William H.  
5 Amoss Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Fund may be distributed to include fire,  
6 rescue, and ambulance companies located outside the State under certain  
7 circumstances; altering the volunteer fire, rescue, and ambulance companies to  
8 which grants or loans may be awarded under the Volunteer Company  
9 Assistance Fund to include companies located outside the State under certain  
10 circumstances; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating  
11 to the distribution of money under the Senator William H. Amoss Fire, Rescue,  
12 and Ambulance Fund and the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
14 Article – Public Safety  
15 Section 8–102(a) and (b), 8–201(a), (b), and (d), 8–202(a), and 8–203(a) and (b)  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2003 Volume and 2009 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
19 Article – Public Safety  
20 Section 8–103(b)(1) and 8–201(e)  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland

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**EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (2003 Volume and 2009 Supplement)

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

4 **Article – Public Safety**

5 8–102.

6 (a) There is a Senator William H. Amoss Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Fund.

7 (b) The purposes of the Fund are to promote:

8 (1) the delivery of effective and high quality fire protection, rescue,  
9 and ambulance services in the State;

10 (2) increased financial support for fire, rescue, and ambulance  
11 companies by counties; and

12 (3) the continued financial viability of volunteer fire, rescue, and  
13 ambulance companies given the greatly increased costs of equipment.

14 8–103.

15 (b) (1) Subject to paragraph (6) of this subsection, each county shall  
16 distribute the money provided under this subtitle on the basis of need to fire, rescue,  
17 and ambulance companies, departments, or stations in the county, including  
18 companies, departments, or stations:

19 **(I) located in municipal corporations; OR**

20 **(II) LOCATED OUTSIDE THE STATE IF THE COMPANY,**  
21 **DEPARTMENT, OR STATION:**

22 **1. HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND STATE**  
23 **FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION FOR AT LEAST THE PAST 10 YEARS; AND**

24 **2. HAS A FIRST DUE RESPONSE AREA IN THE STATE.**

25 8–201.

26 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

27 (b) “Association” means the Maryland State Firemen’s Association.

28 (d) “Fund” means the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund.

1 (e) "Volunteer company" means a volunteer ambulance, fire, or rescue  
2 company:

3 (1) located in the State; OR

4 (2) LOCATED OUTSIDE THE STATE IF THE COMPANY:

5 (I) HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR AT  
6 LEAST THE PAST 10 YEARS; AND

7 (II) HAS A FIRST DUE RESPONSE AREA IN THE STATE.

8 8-202.

9 (a) There is a Volunteer Company Assistance Fund.

10 8-203.

11 (a) The purpose of the Fund is to ensure adequate fire protection and rescue  
12 services in the State.

13 (b) A grant or loan awarded under this section shall be used only for  
14 purchasing, replacing, or improving:

15 (1) equipment, including elevated equipment, pumpers, tankers,  
16 ladder trucks, ambulances, rescue vehicles, or other large equipment used for fire  
17 fighting and emergency services;

18 (2) communications equipment;

19 (3) protective equipment, including helmets, turnout coats and pants,  
20 boots, eyeshields, gloves, and self-contained respiratory protection units;

21 (4) any other equipment necessary to carry out the ordinary functions  
22 of supporting fire fighting and rescue activities; or

23 (5) facilities used to house fire fighting equipment, ambulances, and  
24 rescue vehicles.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency  
26 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,  
27 has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members  
28 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from  
29 the date it is enacted.