

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 305

(Senator Munson)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

**Public Safety - Emergency Medical Services Provider Killed in Performance of
Duty - Flag Benefit for Family**

This bill requires the Secretary of State to issue a State flag to the family of a professional or volunteer emergency medical services (EMS) provider who is killed in the performance of duty. The State Senator from the legislative district in which the deceased resided or served must present the flag to the family.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: It is assumed that the infrequent issuance of a State flag to the family of an EMS provider can be handled with the existing budgeted resources of the Secretary of State.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: An EMS provider is an individual licensed or certified by the EMS board as: a cardiac rescue technician; an emergency medical dispatcher; an emergency medical technician-basic; an emergency medical technician-paramedic; or a first responder. These individuals provide: medical services prior to hospital services in order to prevent imminent death or aggravation of illness or injury; transport from the scene of a medical emergency to a hospital or appropriate facility; and medical interfacility critical care or other transport.

Maryland's Secretary of State is required to issue a State flag to the family of a firefighter, police officer, member of the military, or sworn member of the office of State Fire Marshal who is killed in the performance of duty. Except when the deceased is a member of the military, the flag must be presented to the family by the State Senator of the legislative district in which the deceased resided or served. When the deceased is a member of the military, the flag must be presented to the family by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Background: Since fiscal 2006, only one EMS worker has been paid a line-of-duty death benefit by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. That person was a paramedic killed in 2009.

According to the Secretary of State, the cost of a single State flag is \$11. The Secretary of State spends about \$3,000 annually for the issuance of State flags for all purposes.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 2010
mlm/hlb

Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

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