

Chapter 70

**(Senate Bill 516)**

AN ACT concerning

**Washington County – Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Service – Local Authority**

FOR the purpose of providing that the County Commissioners of Washington County are the ultimate authority having jurisdiction over the provision of fire, rescue, and ambulance services in Washington County.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
The Public Local Laws of Washington County  
Section 10–402  
Article 22 – Public Local Laws of Maryland  
(2007 Edition and October 2010 Supplement, as amended)

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

**Article 22 – Washington County**

10–402.

(a) The County Commissioners, with the advice of the Washington County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, Inc., by regulations adopted by the County Commissioners, may provide specifications for equipment, service area designations, and operations in the best interest of the volunteer fire, rescue, and ambulance departments in the county. Any volunteer fire, rescue, or ambulance department which is incorporated and approved and recognized by the Washington County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, Inc., and the County Commissioners which does not meet the standards for equipment, service areas, or operations of the Washington County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, Inc., or any other criteria adopted by the County Commissioners is ineligible for any appropriations from the County Commissioners, and any appropriations may be denied, withheld, or curtailed. Any fire, rescue, or ambulance company or department failing to meet the requirements set by the County Commissioners shall suspend operations immediately after notification that a majority of the County Commissioners has directed the cessation of operations.

(b) The County Commissioners may provide loans to approved volunteer fire or rescue companies for the purchase of fire or rescue equipment, land, or buildings to be used by those companies. The loans shall be in the amounts and upon the terms as are approved by the County Commissioners.

**(c) THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ARE THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION OVER THE PROVISION OF FIRE, RESCUE, AND AMBULANCE SERVICES IN THE COUNTY.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2016.

**Approved by the Governor, April 12, 2016.**