

HOUSE BILL 868

L2

6lr2302
CF SB 516

By: **Delegate McKay**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2016

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

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

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

13 **Article 22 – Washington County**

14 10–402.

15 (a) The County Commissioners, with the advice of the Washington County
16 Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, Inc., by regulations adopted by the County
17 Commissioners, may provide specifications for equipment, service area designations, and
18 operations in the best interest of the volunteer fire, rescue, and ambulance departments in
19 the county. Any volunteer fire, rescue, or ambulance department which is incorporated and
20 approved and recognized by the Washington County Volunteer Fire and Rescue
21 Association, Inc., and the County Commissioners which does not meet the standards for
22 equipment, service areas, or operations of the Washington County Volunteer Fire and
23 Rescue Association, Inc., or any other criteria adopted by the County Commissioners is
24 ineligible for any appropriations from the County Commissioners, and any appropriations
25 may be denied, withheld, or curtailed. Any fire, rescue, or ambulance company or
26 department failing to meet the requirements set by the County Commissioners shall

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 suspend operations immediately after notification that a majority of the County
2 Commissioners has directed the cessation of operations.

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

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

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