

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1199 (Prince George's County Delegation)
Health and Government Operations

Prince George's County - Emergency Medical Services - Motorcycle Unit
PG 312-16

This bill requires the governing body of Prince George’s County, by local law, to establish an emergency medical response unit that travels by motorcycle to assist with emergencies in the county. The local law must require a member of the unit to be (1) licensed or certified as an emergency medical services provider by the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board and (2) licensed to drive a motorcycle.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill only affects local government operations.

Local Effect: Although Prince George’s County did not respond to requests for information about the fiscal impact of this bill, the bill has a potentially significant impact on Prince George’s County finances to the extent the county funds the purchase of motorcycles, equipment, or insurance for an emergency medical response unit.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: “Emergency medical services provider” means an individual licensed or certified by the EMS Board as a cardiac rescue technician, an emergency medical dispatcher, an emergency medical responder, an emergency medical technician, or a paramedic.

Motorcycles are used by emergency medical providers around the world. Motorcycles are able to move through congested or heavy traffic much faster than a car or van. The ability to respond to a medical emergency quickly can increase survival rates for many patients.

Daytona Beach Fire Rescue in Florida uses pairs of motorcycles to help with response times during heavy congestion resulting from major events in the area. Miami-Dade County, also in Florida, used motorcycles during a pilot program from 2004 to 2008. The program is reported to have had a significant success rate and was credited with cutting response times in half; however, the program was cut due to budget problems. Emergency medical services in Austin, Texas has four motorcycles that have been useful in navigating through congested areas to respond to traffic emergencies faster than a traditional ambulance.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 570 of 2015 was referred to the House Environment and Transportation Committee, but subsequently withdrawn.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): *EMS World*, Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

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mel/lgc

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