

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 930
Appropriations

(Delegate Stein)

Budget and Taxation

Senator William H. Amoss Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Funds - Property
Acquisition and Construction of Facilities

This bill authorizes that State money provided to the Senator William H. Amoss Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Fund (Amoss Fund) may be used to acquire land for the purpose of rehabilitation or construction of a fire, a rescue, or an ambulance facility.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill alters the purposes for which existing funds may be used. The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) can handle any administrative changes with existing resources.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: MDEM administers the Amoss Fund, and its purposes are to promote (1) the delivery of effective and high-quality fire protection, rescue, and ambulance services in the State; (2) increased financial support for fire, rescue, and ambulance companies by counties; and (3) the continued financial viability of volunteer fire, rescue, and ambulance companies given the greatly increased costs of equipment. The fund consists of money appropriated in the State budget and revenue distributed to the fund from civil penalties imposed as a result of manufacturers or sellers selling cigarettes that have not been tested or that fail to meet specified fire safety performance standards. The fund

receives \$15.0 million in special funds annually, and each county must receive a share of the funds that is at least 2% of the total funds (\$300,000).

State money for the fund may only be used to (1) acquire or rehabilitate fire or rescue equipment, including ambulances; (2) acquire or rehabilitate capital equipment used in connection with fire or rescue equipment; (3) rehabilitate facilities used primarily to house firefighting equipment, ambulances, and rescue vehicles; (4) install life safety and fire protection systems at a fire, a rescue, or an ambulance facility; (5) *acquire land that is adjacent to an existing fire, rescue, or ambulance facility for the purpose of rehabilitating that facility* (this provision is altered by the bill); (6) acquire wireless telecommunications devices, computers, and related computer equipment if used exclusively for fire protection, rescue, and ambulance services; and (7) acquire machinery and equipment if used exclusively for fire protection, rescue, and ambulance services.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems; Garrett County; Maryland Department of Emergency Management; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 2022
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