

# HOUSE BILL 975

L2

4lr2392  
CF SB 807

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By: **Delegate Otto**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Somerset County – Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the County Commissioners of Somerset County to enact  
4 local laws and adopt other measures to manage, direct, and regulate fire, rescue, and  
5 emergency medical services in the County; authorizing the County Commissioners  
6 to authorize or create an entity or a body to administer the County’s affairs in the  
7 County relating to fire, rescue, and emergency medical services; requiring the  
8 County Commissioners to establish an Emergency Services Advisory Council to  
9 make certain recommendations under certain circumstances; and generally relating  
10 to fire, rescue, and emergency medical services in Somerset County.

11 BY adding to

12 The Public Local Laws of Somerset County  
13 Section 4–301 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 3. Fire, Rescue, and Emergency  
14 Medical Services” and the amended title “Title 4. Emergency Services”  
15 Article 20 – Public Local Laws of Maryland  
16 (2015 Edition, as amended)

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

19 **Article 20 – Somerset County**

20 Title 4. [Fire Departments and Fire Marshal] **EMERGENCY SERVICES.**

21 **SUBTITLE 3. FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.**

22 **4–301.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(A) THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY ENACT LOCAL LAWS AND ADOPT**  
2 **OTHER MEASURES NECESSARY TO ADEQUATELY AND APPROPRIATELY MANAGE,**  
3 **DIRECT, AND REGULATE FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES IN**  
4 **THE COUNTY.**

5           **(B) (1) THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY AUTHORIZE OR CREATE AN**  
6 **ENTITY OR A BODY TO ADMINISTER THE COUNTY'S AFFAIRS RELATING TO FIRE,**  
7 **RESCUE, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES WHILE**  
8 **MAINTAINING THE VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES.**

9           **(2) IF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZE OR CREATE AN**  
10 **ENTITY OR A BODY UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE COUNTY**  
11 **COMMISSIONERS SHALL ESTABLISH AN EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVISORY**  
12 **COUNCIL TO PROVIDE THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WITH RECOMMENDATIONS**  
13 **REGARDING THE OPERATIONS OF FIRE SUPPRESSION, EMERGENCY MEDICAL, AND**  
14 **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SERVICES IN THE COUNTY.**

15           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
16 October 1, 2024.