

SENATE BILL 810

R2

8lr2814

By: **Senator Pipkin**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2008

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Finance, February 14, 2008

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: March 22, 2008

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation – Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations Fund –**
3 **Transport by Privately Owned Helicopter**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~requiring that an operator of a privately owned helicopter be~~
5 ~~reimbursed from the Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations Fund for~~
6 ~~costs incurred in transporting individuals for emergency medical treatment;~~
7 adding reimbursement of operators of ~~privately owned helicopters~~ private
8 helicopter companies for costs of emergency medical transport under certain
9 circumstances as an authorized use of money in the Maryland Emergency
10 Medical System Operations Fund; requiring the State Emergency Medical
11 Services Board to adopt certain regulations and protocols; making a certain
12 stylistic change; and generally relating to the Maryland Emergency Medical
13 System Operations Fund.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Transportation
16 Section 13–955
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Transportation**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 13-955.

2 (a) In this section, "Fund" means the Maryland Emergency Medical System
3 Operations Fund.

4 (b) (1) There is a Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations Fund.

5 (2) The Fund is a continuing, nonlapsing fund which is not subject to §
6 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

7 (3) Interest and earnings on the Fund shall be separately accounted
8 for and credited to the Fund, and are not subject to § 6-226(a) of the State Finance
9 and Procurement Article.

10 (c) The Fund consists of:

11 (1) Registration surcharges collected under § 13-954 of this subtitle;
12 and

13 (2) All funds, including charges for accident scene transports and
14 interhospital transfers of patients, generated by an entity specified in subsection (e) of
15 this section that is a unit of State government.

16 (d) Expenditures from the Fund shall be made pursuant to an appropriation
17 approved by the General Assembly in the annual State budget or by the budget
18 amendment procedure provided under § 7-209 of the State Finance and Procurement
19 Article, provided that any budget amendment shall be submitted to and approved by
20 the Legislative Policy Committee prior to the expenditure or obligation of funds.

21 (e) The money in the Fund shall be used solely for:

22 (1) Medically oriented functions of the Department of State Police,
23 Special Operations Bureau, Aviation ~~Division~~ **COMMAND**;

24 (2) The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems;

25 (3) The R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of
26 Maryland Medical System;

27 (4) The Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute;

28 (5) The provision of grants under the Senator William H. Amoss Fire,
29 Rescue, and Ambulance Fund in accordance with the provisions of Title 8, Subtitle 1 of
30 the Public Safety Article; [and]

31 ~~(6) REIMBURSEMENT OF OPERATORS OF PRIVATELY OWNED~~
32 ~~HELICOPTERS FOR COSTS OF TRANSPORTING INDIVIDUALS FOR EMERGENCY~~

1 ~~MEDICAL TREATMENT~~ THE REIMBURSEMENT OF PRIVATE HELICOPTER
2 COMPANIES FOR THE TRANSPORT OF PATIENTS FROM THE SCENE OF AN OUT OF
3 HOSPITAL MEDICAL EMERGENCY TO A HEALTH CARE FACILITY WHEN
4 DISPATCHED BY SYSTEM COMMUNICATIONS AT THE MARYLAND INSTITUTE FOR
5 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEMS, PROVIDED THAT:

6 (I) THE REIMBURSEMENT CONSISTS ONLY OF THE
7 DIFFERENCE, IF ANY, BETWEEN THE THEN-CURRENT MEDICARE RATE FOR AN
8 ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARY FOR THE TRANSPORT PROVIDED AND THE AMOUNTS
9 RECEIVED BY THE PRIVATE HELICOPTER COMPANY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE
10 EXCEPT THE PATIENT;

11 (II) THE PATIENT IS NOT BILLED BY THE PRIVATE
12 HELICOPTER COMPANY; AND

13 (III) THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF ALL REIMBURSEMENTS FROM
14 THE FUND TO PRIVATE HELICOPTER COMPANIES DOES NOT EXCEED \$150,000
15 ANNUALLY; AND

16 [(6)] (7) The Volunteer Company Assistance Fund in accordance with
17 the provisions of Title 8, Subtitle 2 of the Public Safety Article.

18 (F) ~~AN OPERATOR OF A PRIVATELY OWNED HELICOPTER SHALL BE~~
19 ~~REIMBURSED FROM THE FUND FOR COSTS INCURRED IN TRANSPORTING~~
20 ~~INDIVIDUALS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT~~ THE STATE EMERGENCY
21 MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS AND PROTOCOLS FOR
22 THE DISPATCH AND REIMBURSEMENT OF PRIVATE HELICOPTER COMPANIES TO
23 SUPPORT THE MEDICALLY-ORIENTED FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
24 STATE POLICE, SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU, AVIATION COMMAND.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 2008.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.