

Chapter 479

(House Bill 1555)

AN ACT concerning

Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Funds – Distribution of Money to Companies Outside the State

FOR the purpose of altering the entities to which money from the Senator William H. Amoss Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Fund may be distributed to include fire, rescue, and ambulance companies located outside the State under certain circumstances; altering the volunteer fire, rescue, and ambulance companies to which grants or loans may be awarded under the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund to include companies located outside the State under certain circumstances; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to the distribution of money under the Senator William H. Amoss Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Fund and the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Public Safety

Section 8–102(a) and (b), 8–201(a), (b), and (d), 8–202(a), and 8–203(a) and (b)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2003 Volume and 2009 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Public Safety

Section 8–103(b)(1) and 8–201(e)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2003 Volume and 2009 Supplement)

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

Article – Public Safety

8–102.

(a) There is a Senator William H. Amoss Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Fund.

(b) The purposes of the Fund 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.

8–103.

(b) (1) Subject to paragraph (6) of this subsection, each county shall distribute the money provided under this subtitle on the basis of need to fire, rescue, and ambulance companies, departments, or stations in the county, including companies, departments, or stations:

(I) located in municipal corporations; **OR**

(II) LOCATED OUTSIDE THE STATE IF THE COMPANY, DEPARTMENT, OR STATION:

1. HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION FOR AT LEAST THE PAST 10 YEARS; AND

2. HAS A FIRST DUE RESPONSE AREA IN THE STATE.

8–201.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) “Association” means the Maryland State Firemen’s Association.

(d) “Fund” means the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund.

(e) “Volunteer company” means a volunteer ambulance, fire, or rescue company:

(1) located in the State; **OR**

(2) LOCATED OUTSIDE THE STATE IF THE COMPANY:

(I) HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR AT LEAST THE PAST 10 YEARS; AND

(II) HAS A FIRST DUE RESPONSE AREA IN THE STATE.

8–202.

- (a) There is a Volunteer Company Assistance Fund.

8–203.

- (a) The purpose of the Fund is to ensure adequate fire protection and rescue services in the State.

- (b) A grant or loan awarded under this section shall be used only for purchasing, replacing, or improving:

- (1) equipment, including elevated equipment, pumpers, tankers, ladder trucks, ambulances, rescue vehicles, or other large equipment used for fire fighting and emergency services;

- (2) communications equipment;

- (3) protective equipment, including helmets, turnout coats and pants, boots, eyeshields, gloves, and self-contained respiratory protection units;

- (4) any other equipment necessary to carry out the ordinary functions of supporting fire fighting and rescue activities; or

- (5) facilities used to house fire fighting equipment, ambulances, and rescue vehicles.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.

Approved by the Governor, May 4, 2010.