

Chapter 695

(Senate Bill 591)

AN ACT concerning

Garrett County – Payment to Rescue Squads –~~Repeal~~

FOR the purpose of ~~repealing from~~ altering the Public Local Laws of Garrett County ~~certain provisions of law relating to certain payments to rescue squads by~~ to require the Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County to appropriate certain funds for the benefit of certain rescue squads; authorizing the County Commissioners to pay the value of a certain appropriation to a rescue squad by in-kind payment of personnel, equipment, or services; *repealing certain provisions concerning the use and withholding of county funds and certain reporting requirements under certain circumstances*; and generally relating to the payment of rescue squads in Garrett County.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

The Public Local Laws of Garrett County

Section 35.05

Article 12 – Public Local Laws of Maryland

(2005 Edition and September 2015 Supplement, as amended)

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

Article 12 – Garrett County

~~§~~35.05.

(A) In this section, RESCUE SQUAD means a voluntary, nonprofit entity that provides pre-hospital emergency services and patient transport.

(B) (1) The Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County shall appropriate ~~and pay to~~ **FOR THE BENEFIT OF** rescue squads in the county a total amount per year of up to \$0.008 per hundred dollars on the assessable real property in Garrett County other than operating real property of a public utility and up to \$0.02 per hundred dollars on the assessable personal property and operating real property of a public utility.

(2) ~~The Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County shall make the payments twice a year in December and June~~ **THE VALUE OF THE APPROPRIATION SHALL BE PAID TO THE RESCUE SQUADS IN THE COUNTY BY:**

(I) DIRECT PAYMENT; OR

(II) IN-KIND PAYMENT BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS THROUGH THE ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT, OR SERVICES TO THE RESCUE SQUAD.

(3) The payments to each rescue squad shall be equivalent.

[(C) A rescue squad shall use the funds for:

(1) The purchase, maintenance and repair of rescue apparatus and equipment;

(2) The construction, maintenance, or repair of facilities and grounds necessary for:

(a) Emergency medical service purposes;

(b) Hosting community events;

(c) Providing emergency shelter; or

(d) Enhancing fund-raising or operations capability;

(3) The promotion, retention, or recruitment of membership; or

(4) Other special expenditures, including hardships or other extenuating circumstances that have:

(a) The prior approval of the Garrett County Emergency Services Board; and

(b) Consideration of recommendations from the Garrett County Fire and Rescue Association.

(D) The Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County may reserve the right to withhold any or all of the funds from a rescue squad that fails to meet all standards and policies recommended by the Garrett County Emergency Services Board to the Board of County Commissioners.

(E) A rescue squad receiving funding under this section shall file annually signed copies of federal Form 990 and Form 990 Schedule A, including receipt and disbursement of funds received under this chapter with the Board of County Commissioners. A rescue squad may not file federal Form 990 EZ with the County Commissioners under this section. If the Internal Revenue Service changes, amends, or replaces Form 990 and Form 990 Schedule A with a report that is to be filed annually, a fully executed copy of that report with all corresponding schedules shall be filed with the County Commissioners.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017.

Approved by the Governor, May 25, 2017.