

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND  
LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2022-14**

**BILL NO. 2022-09**

**Title of Bill:** Fire Companies Volunteer – Emergency Services Expenses - Reimbursement

**Synopsis:** An Act to add to Chapter 49, Fire Companies, Volunteer, of the Code of Cecil County; to include authorization for the member volunteer fire and fire and ambulance companies of the Cecil County Firemen’s Association to obtain reimbursement of certain costs to render services during the normal course of emergency service and/or rescue operations.

**Introduced by:** Councilman Coutz

**Introduced and order posted on:** June 21, 2022

**Public hearing scheduled on:** July 26, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

**Consideration scheduled on:** August 2, 2022

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Council Manager

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice of time and place of public hearing and title of Bill having been posted by (date) at the County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Blvd., Elkton, and having been published according to the Charter on (date), a public hearing was held on (date) and concluded on (date).

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Council Manager

**Explanation:** CAPITAL LETTERS INDICATE LANGUAGE ADDED TO EXISTING DOCUMENT  
~~Strike through~~ indicates language deleted from existing document  
Underlining indicates language added to document by amendment.  
~~Double Strike through~~ indicates language stricken from document by amendment.

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1           **WHEREAS**, the citizens of Cecil County, Maryland (the “County”) are entitled to dependable  
2 emergency services, medical care and transport without regard to an individual’s ability to pay or  
3 the individual’s insurance coverage status; and

4           **WHEREAS**, the County Council of Cecil County, State of Maryland (the “Council”) find that  
5 the Cecil County Firemen’s Association (the “Association”), a volunteer emergency services  
6 organization consisting of the nine volunteer fire or fire and ambulance companies located within  
7 the corporate boundaries of the County, is experiencing ever increasing financial burdens  
8 providing said dependable emergency services; and

9           **WHEREAS**, the Council finds the financial burdens are creating undue hardship upon the  
10 ability of the Association’s membership volunteer companies to provide dependable emergency  
11 services response and support for rescue and hazardous materials operations, medical care and  
12 transport; and

13           **WHEREAS**, in order to ensure the continued viability of the Association and member  
14 companies and to promote and protect the public health, safety, and welfare of County residents,  
15 an ordinance must be adopted to authorize the Association’s member volunteer companies to  
16 issue certain emergency services reimbursement charges to the recipients of such services  
17 provided throughout the County by Association members; and

18           **WHEREAS**, the County Council, Cecil County, State of Maryland desires to authorize the  
19 Association’s member companies to collect monies directly from those persons and parties, or  
20 from third party representatives of those parties, who receive emergency services, medical care  
21 and transport for the costs associated with certain services during the performance of emergency  
22 duties.

23           **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY,**  
24 **MARYLAND**, that a new section of Chapter 49 of the Code of Cecil County to be titled,  
25 “Reimbursement of Volunteer Fire / Ambulance Company Expenses” is enacted to read as follows:

26 **§ 49-4. REIMBURSEMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES EXPENSES.**  
27 **A. THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION IS TO ESTABLISH AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ASSOCIATION’S MEMBER**  
28 **COMPANIES TO RECOVER CERTAIN COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH EMERGENCY SERVICES RESPONSE TO**  
29 **AND MITIGATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISIONS, ACCIDENTS, AND RESCUES WITHIN THE COUNTY**  
30 **OR ANY AREA WITHIN WHICH THE ASSOCIATION’S MEMBERS ARE AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE SUCH**

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31 SERVICES.AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS AS  
32 INDICATED:

33 (1) "PARTY" OR "PARTIES" INCLUDE AN INDIVIDUAL, NATURAL PERSON, ESTATE, TRUST,  
34 FIRM, CORPORATION, PARTNERSHIP, LLC, GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY, ASSOCIATION OR  
35 OTHER LEGAL ENTITY.

36 (2) "ASSOCIATION" MEANS THE CECIL COUNTY FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

37 (3) "CHARGE" MEANS THE REIMBURSEMENT CHARGE FOR CERTAIN EMERGENCY SERVICES  
38 RESPONSE AND MITIGATION SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT, MEDICAL CARE AND/OR  
39 TRANSPORTAION PROVIDED BY AN ASSOCIATION MEMBER IN THE PERFORMANCE OF  
40 THEIR DUTIES.

41 (4) "EMERGENCY" MEANS 911 CALL FOR SERVICE.

42 B. EACH ASSOCIATION MEMBER SHALL MAINTAIN AND PUBLISH AN INDIVIDUAL FEE SCHEDULE  
43 FOR APPLICABLE COSTS FOR SERVICES PROVIDED, WHICH SHALL BE BASED ON THE COST OF  
44 PROVIDING EMERGENCY SERVICES (LIMITED TO THOSE INCIDENT TYPES SPECIFICALLY  
45 NOTED), MEDICAL CARE AND TRANSPORT, AND MAY BE REVISED AND ADJUSTED ANNUALLY  
46 BASED ON INFLATION, AS MEASURED BY AN INDEX REASONABLY RELATED TO THE COST OF  
47 PROVIDING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

48 (1) LIABILITY OF COSTS.

49 (I) A PARTY WHO RECEIVES EMERGENCY SERVICES SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR  
50 PAYMENT OF ANY CHARGE ISSUED BY AN ASSOCIATION MEMBER FOR SERVICES  
51 RENDERED, WHICH SHALL BE PAID TO THE AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
52 SAID ASSOCIATION MEMBER UPON RECEIPT OF BILLING.

53 (II) THE COSTS AND FEES AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMBER COMPANY'S PUBLISHED FEE  
54 SCHEDULE SHALL BE RECOVERED DIRECTLY BY THE ASSOCIATION OR ITS AUTHORIZED  
55 REPRESENTATIVE, ATTORNEY, OR CONTRACTED COLLECTIONS SERVICES AGENCY. IN  
56 ADDITION TO THE COSTS AND FEES AS OUTLINED IN THE FEE SCHEDULES, THE  
57 ASSOCIATION OR ANY ATTORNEY, AGENCY, OR COLLECTION SERVICES AGENCY SHALL  
58 BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT REASONABLE INTEREST AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES  
59 FOR COLLECTING THE COSTS AND FEES.

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60 **C. IN THE EVENT THAT ANY PERSON FAILS TO PAY ANY BILL OR INVOICE WITHIN 90 DAYS OF**  
61 **THE MAILING OR DELIVERY OF SUCH NOTICE OF CHARGES, THE MEMBER COMPANIES OF THE**  
62 **ASSOCIATION OR ANY ATTORNEY OR CONTRACTED COLLECTION SERVICES AGENCY THAT**  
63 **MAILED OR DELIVERED THE BILL OR INVOICE MAY ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS**  
64 **SECTION BY FILING A CIVIL ACTION IN A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION FOR THE**  
65 **COLLECTION OF ANY AND ALL AMOUNTS DUE TO THE ASSOCIATION TOGETHER WITH**  
66 **STATUTORY INTEREST, COURT COSTS, COLLECTIONS FEES, AND REASONABLE ATTORNEY’S**  
67 **FEES. THE REMEDIES PROVIDED HEREIN SHALL BE IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER RELIEF OR**  
68 **PENALTIES THAT MAY BE APPROPRIATE IF PROVIDED BY LAW.**

69 **BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND** that  
70 this Bill shall take effect 60 calendar days from the date that it becomes law.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, HEREBY CERTIFY that the above Bill was posted for the public on the public bulletin board with the date, time and location of the public hearing meeting, copies were made available for the public, a copy was distributed to the press, and copy was made available on the Cecil County website.

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BY: Council Manager