

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 140  
Judiciary

(Delegate Knotts)

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Public Safety - Emergency Medical Services - Bicycle Response Unit

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This bill authorizes a county or municipality to establish, by local law, an emergency medical response unit that travels by bicycle to assist with emergencies within the county or municipality. The local law must require a member of the response unit to be licensed or certified as an emergency medical services provider by the State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board. The EMS Board must establish policies and procedures for the operation of an emergency response unit that travels by bicycle.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The EMS Board can handle the bill's requirements with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** As the bill is authorizing, it is not anticipated to materially impact local government finances or operations.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** "Emergency medical services provider" means an individual licensed or certified by the EMS Board as a cardiac rescue technician, an emergency medical dispatcher, an emergency medical responder, an emergency medical technician, or a paramedic.

With specified exceptions, an individual may not provide emergency medical services in the State unless issued a license or certificate by the EMS Board. The EMS Board may

adopt rules, regulations, protocols, orders, and standards related to the provision of emergency medical services, and the licensing or certification of providers. Any regulations of the EMS Board relating to the practice of medicine must be adopted jointly with the State Board of Physicians, and any regulations of the EMS Board relating to the practice of nursing must be adopted in collaboration with the State Board of Nursing.

**Background:** Bicycles are used by emergency medical providers around the world. Bicycles are able to move through large crowds or cut across park land more nimbly than a crew in an ambulance. The ability to respond to a medical emergency quickly can increase survival rates for patients. The City of Los Angeles introduced its bike unit in 2004, with 20 cyclists. As of January 2017, the team was one of the largest in the country, with 120 cyclists and 60 bikes. The team deploys to events such as the Los Angeles Marathon, the Rose Parade, Los Angeles Rams football tailgating parties, and on the Venice Beach Boardwalk on summer weekends.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems; Anne Arundel and Somerset counties; City of Laurel; Maryland Association of Counties; Maryland Municipal League; *The Pew Charitable Trusts*; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 18, 2018  
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Analysis by: Nathan W. McCurdy

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510