

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2018 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

House Bill 425

(Delegate Otto)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Somerset County - Fire Companies - Appropriations**

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This bill increases the amount of funds that the Somerset County Commissioners must appropriate annually to the volunteer fire companies in Somerset County for fiscal 2019 through 2024. The required appropriation for fiscal 2024 will remain in effect for subsequent years unless altered by future legislation. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Somerset County expenditures increase by \$6,500 in FY 2019 and by \$41,000 in FY 2024. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** **Exhibit 1** details the increase in the Somerset County appropriation for each volunteer fire company for fiscal 2019 through 2024.

**Exhibit 1**  
**Somerset County Volunteer Fire Companies – Change in Annual Appropriations**  
**FY 2019-2024**

	<u>FY 2019</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>	<u>FY 2022</u>	<u>FY 2023</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>
<b>Crisfield VFC</b>						
Current Appropriation	\$66,550	\$66,550	\$66,550	\$66,550	\$66,550	\$66,550
Appropriation Under Bill	67,881	69,239	70,623	72,036	73,477	74,946
Change	1,331	2,689	4,073	5,486	6,927	8,396
<b>Princess Anne VFC</b>						
Current Appropriation	\$66,550	\$66,550	\$66,550	\$66,550	\$66,550	\$66,550
Appropriation Under Bill	67,881	69,239	70,623	72,036	73,477	74,946
Change	1,331	2,689	4,073	5,486	6,927	8,396
<b>Marion VFC</b>						
Current Appropriation	\$42,400	\$42,400	\$42,400	\$42,400	\$42,400	\$42,400
Appropriation Under Bill	43,248	44,113	44,995	45,895	46,813	47,749
Change	848	1,713	2,595	3,495	4,413	5,349
<b>Deal Island – Chance VFC</b>						
Current Appropriation	\$36,900	\$36,900	\$36,900	\$36,900	\$36,900	\$36,900
Appropriation Under Bill	37,638	38,391	39,159	39,942	40,741	41,555
Change	738	1,491	2,259	3,042	3,841	4,655
<b>Ewell Fire Department</b>						
Current Appropriation	\$29,400	\$29,400	\$29,400	\$29,400	\$29,400	\$29,400
Appropriation Under Bill	29,988	30,588	31,200	31,824	32,460	33,109
Change	588	1,188	1,800	2,424	3,060	3,709
<b>Mount Vernon VFC</b>						
Current Appropriation	\$36,900	\$36,900	\$36,900	\$36,900	\$36,900	\$36,900
Appropriation Under Bill	37,638	38,391	39,159	39,942	40,741	41,555
Change	738	1,491	2,259	3,042	3,841	4,655
<b>Tylerton VFC</b>						
Current Appropriation	\$9,250	\$9,250	\$9,250	\$9,250	\$9,250	\$9,250
Appropriation Under Bill	9,435	9,624	9,816	10,013	10,213	10,417
Change	185	374	566	763	963	1,167
<b>Fairmont VFC</b>						
Current Appropriation	\$36,900	\$36,900	\$36,900	\$36,900	\$36,900	\$36,900
Appropriation Under Bill	37,638	38,391	39,159	39,942	40,741	41,555
Change	738	1,491	2,259	3,042	3,841	4,655
<b>Total Current</b>	<b>\$324,850</b>	<b>\$324,850</b>	<b>\$324,850</b>	<b>\$324,850</b>	<b>\$324,850</b>	<b>\$324,850</b>
<b>Total Proposed</b>	<b>\$331,347</b>	<b>\$337,974</b>	<b>\$344,733</b>	<b>\$351,628</b>	<b>\$358,661</b>	<b>\$365,834</b>
<b>Total Change</b>	<b>\$6,497</b>	<b>\$13,124</b>	<b>\$19,883</b>	<b>\$26,778</b>	<b>\$33,811</b>	<b>\$40,984</b>

VFC: Volunteer Fire Company  
Source: Department of Legislative Services

**Current Law:** The Public Local Laws of Somerset County require the county commissioners to appropriate funds to organized volunteer fire companies in the county. Appropriations made by the county commissioners to volunteer fire companies were last changed by Chapters 254 and 255 of 2009, which increased funding for fiscal 2011 through 2015. Chapters 254 and 255 also required that the fiscal 2015 funding levels remain the same for each year thereafter, unless changed by legislation. Chapter 66 of 2005 increased funding for fiscal 2006 through 2010. Chapter 66 also required that the fiscal 2010 funding levels remain the same for each year thereafter, unless changed by legislation.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** There are eight organized volunteer fire companies in Somerset County. The county commissioners have provided funding to volunteer fire companies for over 40 years. As shown in Exhibit 1, total county appropriations to volunteer fire companies will increase by \$6,497 in fiscal 2019 and by \$40,984 in fiscal 2024 and subsequent years.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 356 (Senator Mathias) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Somerset County; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 1, 2018  
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Analysis by: Michael Sanelli

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