

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 139
Judiciary

(Delegate Knotts)

Public Safety - Emergency Medical Services - Motorcycle Response Unit

This bill authorizes a county or municipality to establish, by local law, an emergency medical response unit that travels by motorcycle 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 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board. The EMS Board must establish policies and procedures for the operation of an emergency response unit that travels by motorcycle.

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.

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: Motorcycles are used by emergency medical providers around the world. Motorcycles are able to move through congested or heavy traffic much faster than a car or van. The ability to respond to a medical emergency quickly can increase survival rates for many patients. Emergency medical services in Austin, Texas has motorcycles that have been useful in navigating through congested areas to respond to traffic emergencies faster than a traditional ambulance.

Additional Comments: House Bill 1199 of 2016 would have *required* Prince George's County to establish, by local law, an emergency medical response unit that would travel by motorcycle to assist with emergencies within the county. The bill received a hearing in the House Health and Government Operations Committee, but no further action was taken.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems; Caroline and Prince George's counties; City of College Park; Maryland Association of Counties; *EMS World*; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 18, 2018
nb/jc

Analysis by: Nathan W. McCurdy

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