

Chapter 269

(Senate Bill 542)

AN ACT concerning

Carroll County – Volunteer Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services

FOR the purpose of authorizing the County Commissioners of Carroll County to distribute certain funds to rescue and emergency medical services companies in addition to fire companies, subject to a certain plan; authorizing the County Commissioners to award certain service award payments to members of rescue and emergency medical services companies in addition to fire companies; authorizing the County Commissioners to create an entity or body to administer certain affairs relating to volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical services companies; requiring the County Commissioners under certain circumstances to establish an Emergency Services Advisory Council for a certain purpose; making a technical correction; making conforming changes; defining a certain term; and generally relating to volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical services in Carroll County.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 The Public Local Laws of Carroll County
 Section 3–206
 Article 7 – Public Local Laws of Maryland
 (2014 Edition and February 2017 Supplement, as amended)

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

Article 7 – Carroll County

3–206.

(a) **IN THIS SECTION, “EMERGENCY RESPONDER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER MEMBER OF A FIRE, RESCUE, OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANY.**

(B) The County Commissioners of Carroll County shall annually levy and collect from the assessable property in Carroll County, as other taxes are levied and collected, a sum of money that is needed for the County Commissioners to distribute and pay to the volunteer fire, **RESCUE, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES** companies, except as noted in subsection [(b)] (C) of this section, in the County for the support, maintenance, equipment (including ambulances) and operation of the volunteer fire, **RESCUE, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES** companies. The sum of money authorized by this section shall be proportioned and distributed among the volunteer fire, **RESCUE, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES** companies pursuant to a plan adopted by the executive

committee of the Carroll County Volunteer Emergency Services Association and approved by the County Commissioners.

[(b)] (C) The County Commissioners shall provide service award payments from a special fund to eligible volunteer **[firemen] EMERGENCY RESPONDERS** as certified by the Carroll County Volunteer Emergency Services Association. The special fund shall be established as an endowment. The payments shall be made to those individuals who have met the adopted plan requirements as approved by the County Commissioners. The service award payments may be made monthly by the County directly to eligible recipients.

[(c)] (D) The provisions of **[Article 95] TITLE 17 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE** of the Annotated Code of Maryland and any other law that limits the type of investments that may be made of County funds or that limits or places conditions on the deposit of County funds do not apply to the deposit and investment of money into the special fund under subsection **[(b)] (C)** of this section.

(E) (1) THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY AUTHORIZE OR CREATE AN ENTITY OR BODY WITH THE PURPOSE OF ADMINISTERING THE COUNTY'S AFFAIRS RELATING TO FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES WHILE MAINTAINING THE VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES. THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT ORDINANCES AND OTHER MEASURES NECESSARY TO ADEQUATELY AND APPROPRIATELY MANAGE, DIRECT, AND REGULATE FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

(2) IF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZE OR CREATE AN ENTITY UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SHALL ESTABLISH AN EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL TO PROVIDE THE CARROLL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WITH RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE OPERATIONS OF FIRE SUPPRESSION, EMERGENCY MEDICAL, AND HAZ-MAT SERVICES IN CARROLL COUNTY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2018.