

assistance from the Trust Fund ~~rather--than--financial~~ statements; requiring a certain evaluation by the Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning; providing a certain limitation on the amount of certain appropriated funds that may be used by the Maryland State Firemen's Association for certain purposes; and generally relating to the Emergency Trust Fund Program.

BY repealing

Chapter 239 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1982  
Section 5

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 38A - Fires and Investigations  
Section 46A(a)(1) ~~and-(b)~~, 46B, and 46C(b)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1982 Replacement Volume and 1983 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article 38A - Fires and Investigations  
Section 46A(b)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1982 Replacement Volume and 1983 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Throughout Maryland's history, volunteer fire, rescue, and ambulance companies have been a very important provider of fire and emergency services to the citizens of the State and, by saving lives and protecting property, have saved the taxpayer substantial dollars that would otherwise have to be expended by government directly for these services; and

WHEREAS, By Chapter 239 of the Acts of 1982, the General Assembly, in recognition of the escalating cost of fire and rescue services and the disparities in level of support provided to volunteer companies by local jurisdictions, established the Emergency Assistance Trust Fund program to provide financial assistance to volunteer companies in the event of an unforeseen emergency or where the company did not meet minimum standards; and

WHEREAS, The Governor's Task Force on State Support for Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Ambulance Companies reviewed the administration and effectiveness of the Emergency Assistance Trust Fund as well as the need for and desirability of alternative approaches to equipment and facility financing; and