

(c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House jointly shall appoint the co-chairs from the Senate and House members appointed to the Committee.

(d) The Committee shall be staffed by the Department of Legislative Services.

(e) In conducting its study of, and making recommendations about, the structure and funding of the State's emergency medical response system the Committee shall review:

(1) the current and projected fund balances in the Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations Fund (MEMSOF);

(2) current planning efforts for the use of funds in the MEMSOF;

(3) the long-term operating and capital needs for Level I, II, and III trauma centers in the State;

(4) the funding needs of first responders, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel;

(5) incentives for illness prevention, injury reduction, and appropriate use of the trauma system;

(6) the ability of current funding mechanisms to meet the needs of the State's emergency medical response system;

(7) the availability of federal funds for homeland security and bioterrorism response and the ability of those funds to meet the needs of the State's emergency medical response system;

(8) oversight and accountability for use of funds in the MEMSOF;

(9) methods used by other states to meet their emergency medical response needs;

(10) the current use of the Maryland State Police helicopters and the potential for the use of private helicopter companies for emergency medical response and inter-hospital transport;

(11) the issues related to the licensing of commercial air ambulances;

(12) plans to finance the replacement of the Maryland State Police helicopters;

(13) the purposes for which funds, appropriated in the annual State budget from MEMSOF for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003, were used by each entity for which an appropriation was made during those fiscal years; and

(14) the structure of the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) and how MIEMSS functions within the State's emergency medical response system.