

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

Article - Environment

7-604.

(a) Notwithstanding § 7-219 of this title, there is a Community Right-to-Know Fund.

(b) The Department shall use the Community Right-to-Know Fund for:

(1) The collection, management, and analysis of data received by the Department from an owner or operator of a facility that is required by the federal Act or any regulations adopted under the federal Act to provide information to the State under § 7-602(b) of this subtitle;

(2) Enforcement by the State of this subtitle or the federal Act; and

(3) Planning and training functions performed by the State or local instrumentalities as may be required by the federal Act including:

(i) Conducting:

1. Incident response activities;
2. Shelter in place and evacuation planning;
3. Railroad, maritime, and transportation exercises; and
4. Emergency response activities;

(ii) The collection of hazardous material commodity flow information;

(iii) The acquisition and maintenance of chemical reference materials;

(iv) Public outreach activities including case studies, school safety, and emergency planning for citizens; and

(v) Participation by emergency response personnel in related training conferences on local, State, and federal regulatory and compliance updates, incident command, and crisis control.

(c) The Department shall:

(1) Establish an annual fee for facilities required to report to the State or its instrumentalities under the federal Act; and

(2) Base the annual fee on the cost to the Department for processing the information submitted to the Department under § 7-602(b) of this subtitle.

(d) Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, beginning March 1, 2003 and each year thereafter: