

(b) The said fire tax shall be levied and collected in the same manner as other State and County taxes are now levied and collected.

(c) The proceeds collected from said County fire tax shall thereafter be paid by the County Commissioners semi-annually June 30 and December 31 of each year, *commencing December 31, 1965*, to all the fire departments in Charles County. The amount of the proceeds to be distributed to each department shall be determined by the Board of Fire and Rescue Commissioners, which is hereby created and which shall be composed of five members, one of whom shall be a County Commissioner of Charles County, one of whom shall be appointed by the Charles County Volunteer Firemen's Association, and three of whom shall be appointed by the Governor. The members of the board shall serve without compensation for terms of four years each with vacancies to be filled in the same manner as the original membership was filled.

(d) The board shall review the financing of the fire departments and rescue squads in Charles County including the Charles County Rescue Squad and make appropriate biennial recommendations with respect **[to such problems.]** *thereto*. Distribution of funds, constituting the proceeds of the fire tax, shall be made on the basis of the area served by each department, the number of calls answered by the department and any similar standards that may be suggested by the ~~Charles County Volunteer Firemen's Association;~~ BOARD OF FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSIONERS; provided, however, that no volunteer fire department shall receive less than **[five thousand dollars (\$5,000).]** ~~Six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00)~~ ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00) per year.

(e) The funds received by the respective Fire Departments **[under this act]** *from this Fire Tax* shall be used for the purpose of purchasing, repairing, replacing, operating and maintaining their fire fighting equipment and apparatus and the housing of the same. The amount and type of equipment of said Fire Departments shall conform to the standards prescribed by the Charles County Volunteer Firemen's Association; and no resolution, regulation or bylaw shall be passed by said Fire Departments limiting or restricting the territory within the area covered by this Fire Tax within which it will respond to emergency calls.

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*In addition to the Fire Tax benefits, the County Commissioners of Charles County are authorized and directed to pay out of the general funds of the county, commencing July 1, 1965, and annually thereafter, the following sums to the organizations listed below, for their support, maintenance and operation:*

- \$6,000 to the La Plata Fire Department.*
- \$6,000 to the Hughesville Fire Department.*
- \$6,000 to the Waldorf Fire Department.*
- \$6,000 to the Nanjemoy Fire Department.*
- \$6,000 to the Indian Head Fire Department.*
- \$6,000 to the Potomac Heights Fire Department.*
- \$6,000 to the Fifth District Fire Department.*