

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That new Sections 37 through 41, inclusive, be and they are hereby added to Article 38A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Replacement Volume), title "Fires and Investigations" to follow immediately after Section 36 thereof and to be under the new subtitle "Mutual Aid Agreements by Fire Companies," to read as follows:*

*MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS BY FIRE COMPANIES*

*37.*

*The Board of Fire Commissioners of any fire department, or governmental subdivision, or any fire department, fire company or rescue squad through its authorized agents, are hereby authorized, in their discretion, to enter into or renew reciprocal agreements for such periods as they deem advisable with any adjacent fire company or county, or both, and with the District of Columbia, the States of Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware or adjacent counties, or both, or fire departments or governmental units therein, in order to establish and carry into effect a plan to provide mutual aid through the furnishing of fire fighting or rescue personnel or both and equipment by and for the District of Columbia, and such counties, cities, states or departments for the extinguishing of fires and the preservation of life and property in the District of Columbia and in such counties, cities or states. No fire department, rescue squad, fire company or Board of Fire Commissioners in this State shall enter into any such agreement unless the agreement provides that each of the parties to such agreement shall: (1) waive any and all claims against all the other parties thereto which may arise out of their activities outside their respective jurisdictions under such agreement; (2) indemnify and save harmless the other parties to such agreement from all claims by third parties for property damage or personal injury which may arise out of the activities of the other parties to such agreement outside their respective jurisdictions under such agreement.*

*38.*

*Any Board of Fire Commissioners, fire company, rescue squad, governmental subdivision, or fire department, acting through authorized agents, are hereby authorized, in their discretion, to enter into appropriate agreements to make available to the Federal Government, personnel and equipment of the various fire or rescue companies concerned, to extinguish fires and save lives on the property of the Federal Government provided that nothing herein contained shall require any fire companies, rescue squad or Board of Fire Commissioners or fire department, or Governmental subdivision, to enter into such agreements, and provided further that these agreements shall be subject to the indemnities provided in Section 37 of this Article.*

*39.*

*For the purposes of any Workmen's Compensation or other law or benefit which would accrue to personnel, paid or volunteer, who are performing any service anywhere for a fire department or rescue squad of this State, or elsewhere, under any mutual aid agreement, said personnel shall be held and considered to have performed that*