

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That new Sections 8-707(7) and 8-708(e) be and they are hereby added to Article - Natural Resources, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1974 Volume and 1976 Supplement) to read as follows:

Article - Natural Resources

8-707.

A Waterways Improvement Fund is created and continued for the purposes specified in this subtitle. Except as provided in §8-709, any money received into the Waterways Improvement Fund shall be used solely for the following projects.

~~(7) ACQUISITION OF MARINE FIREFIGHTING, POLICE, RESCUE AND PARAMEDIC FACILITIES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, VESSELS, MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, WATER STREAM APPLIANCES, BREATHING APPARATUS, LIFE PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, SALVAGE EQUIPMENT, COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, RELATED TOOLS AND OTHER SPECIALIZED OR GENERAL SUPPORTIVE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED IN DISCHARGING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF~~

(7) TO PROVIDE MATCHING GRANTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF VESSELS, AND EQUIPMENT FOR VESSELS FOR MARINE FIREFIGHTING, POLICE, MEDICAL, AND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT FOR PROMCTING SAFETY OF LIFE AND PROPERTY AND GENERAL SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS BOATING PUBLIC UTILIZING THE WATERS OF THE STATE. THE OWNERSHIP, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF ANY EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY.

8-708.

(E) THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE WATERWAYS IMPROVEMENT FUND SHALL BE LIMITED TO NOT MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF THE COST OF EACH PROJECT SPECIFIED IN SECTION 8-707(7) OF THIS SUBTITLE ACQUISITION, AND THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDS EXPENDED IN ANY FISCAL YEAR FOR ACQUISITIONS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 8-707(7) OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL TAX PAID TO THE WATERWAYS IMPROVEMENT FUND IN THE PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR, AS PROVIDED FOR IN ARTICLE 56, SECTION 137.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1977.

Approved May 17, 1977.