

WITHIN QUALIFIED MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN A COUNTY IN THE AGGREGATE MAY NOT BE LESS THAN 50 PERCENT OF THE PROPORTION WHICH THE EXPENDITURES OF QUALIFIED MUNICIPALITIES BEAR TO TOTAL AGGREGATE EXPENDITURES FOR FIRE PROTECTION BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THAT COUNTY. IN DETERMINING NEED, THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHALL CONSIDER, AMONG OTHER RELEVANT FACTORS, FAILURE TO MEET MINIMUM STANDARDS, AS ESTABLISHED BY THE MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, THE EXISTENCE OR POTENTIAL EXISTENCE OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, THE AGE AND CONDITION OF EXISTING FACILITIES, APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, LACK OF AVAILABILITY OF MUTUAL AID, SERVICE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH DEMOGRAPHIC CONDITIONS, AND IN THE CASE OF A VOLUNTEER COMPANY, ITS INABILITY TO RAISE FUNDS TO PAY FOR THE ITEM. FAILURE TO MEET MINIMUM STANDARDS OR THE EXISTENCE OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, AS DESCRIBED IN § 46A(B) OF THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE GIVEN HIGHEST FUNDING PRIORITY BY THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY. -A COUNTY---SHALL---BE---RESPONSIBLE---FOR---DISTRIBUTING---FUNDS---TO MUNICIPALITIES WITH EXPENDITURES FOR FIRE PROTECTION OF \$25,000 OR LESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(2) AS A CONDITION TO RECEIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, EACH COMPANY, DEPARTMENT, STATION, OR COUNTY SHALL PARTICIPATE IN THE MARYLAND FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM AND AMBULANCE INFORMATION SYSTEM, AS APPROPRIATE.

45D.

(A) THE FUNDS DISTRIBUTED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE USED AS AN ADDITION TO AND SHALL NOT BE SUBSTITUTED FOR MONEYS APPROPRIATED FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN THIS PROGRAM BY THE COUNTIES OR MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE PURPOSES LISTED IN SECTION 45B(D)(1) OF THIS SUBTITLE. EACH COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITY SHALL EXPEND FOR FIRE PROTECTION FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN PROVIDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, IN FISCAL YEAR 1986 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, AN AMOUNT OF FUNDS THAT IS AT LEAST EQUAL TO THE AVERAGE AMOUNT OF FUNDS EXPENDED FOR FIRE PROTECTION DURING THE 3 PRECEDING FISCAL YEARS. FAILURE TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL PRECLUDE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR.

(B) EACH COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITY MUST EXPEND FUNDS FOR FIRE PROTECTION FROM ITS OWN SOURCES THAT ARE AT LEAST EQUAL TO THE AMOUNT OF STATE FUNDS TO BE RECEIVED. A LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAY RECEIVE LESS THAN THE AMOUNT INITIALLY ALLOCATED. IN DETERMINING THE AMOUNT EXPENDED BY A COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY, PRIOR TO CERTIFICATION, THE SECRETARY SHALL REVIEW THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE FIRST COMPLETED FISCAL YEAR PRIOR TO THE FISCAL YEAR FOR WHICH STATE FUNDS ARE APPROPRIATED. FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TRUST FUND UNDER SECTION 46A OF THIS ARTICLE OR OTHER STATE FUNDS MAY NOT BE USED AS MATCHING FUNDS.

(C) FUNDS NOT DISTRIBUTED TO A COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY BECAUSE THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTIONS (A) AND (B) OF THIS SECTION ARE NOT SATISFIED SHALL BE REVERTED TO THE GENERAL FUNDS OF THIS STATE.