

(a) (3) (i) A volunteer fire company or rescue squad shall submit all requests for financial assistance under this section to the Maryland State Firemen's Association for approval by a board of review in accordance with the Association's bylaws.

(ii) All requests for financial assistance shall include financial statements for the 2 fiscal years immediately prior to the fiscal year in which the application is made. Each request shall also include the audit of the financial statements if an audit was conducted. THE VOLUNTEER COMPANY SHALL CERTIFY THAT IT HAS APPLIED FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM ITS LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR GOVERNMENTS AND BEEN DENIED, EITHER IN PART OR IN FULL, FUNDING FOR ITS REQUEST.

(iii) If the Maryland State Firemen's Association disapproves a request or does not take action within 45 days of the request, then the volunteer fire company or rescue squad requesting assistance may appeal to a panel comprised of the president of the Maryland State Firemen's Association, the State Fire Marshal, and the chairman of the Fire and Rescue Education and Training Commission. The decision of the appeals panel shall be final and not subject to further review.

(d) (4) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE TRUST FUND MAY NOT BE APPROVED IF A VOLUNTEER COMPANY HAS NOT MADE A GOOD FAITH EFFORT TO OBTAIN FUNDS FROM ITS LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That on or before January 1, 1988, subject to § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, the Department, the Maryland State Fire Association, and the counties shall report to the appropriate standing committees of the General Assembly on the programs funded under this Act.

SECTION -2-- 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1985.

Approved May 21, 1985.

CHAPTER 119

(House Bill 1327)

AN ACT concerning

Economic Development - International Trade

FOR the purpose of improving economic development efforts in the area of international trade by establishing a State Trade Policy Council to provide advice to the Governor and General Assembly on Maryland's role in international trade and creating an Office of International Trade within the