

(b) (1) Each county shall distribute the funds provided under this subtitle to those fire, rescue, and ambulance companies, departments, or stations within its jurisdiction, including companies, departments, or stations located within municipal corporations, on the basis of need as determined by the local government pursuant to procedures used by the local government in the adoption of its budget. However, distribution to companies, departments, or stations located 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.

(2) As a condition to receiving financial assistance under this subsection, each county shall participate in the Maryland Fire Incident Reporting System and Ambulance Information System, as appropriate.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1987.

Approved May 14, 1987.

CHAPTER 476

(House Bill 541)

AN ACT concerning

Oysters - Catch Limits at Certain Times by
Tonging, Patent Tonging, or Diving

FOR the purpose of establishing certain catch limits for oysters caught by tongs, patent tongs, or diving at certain times; allowing the Department of Natural Resources to extend for a certain time the catch limits for oysters caught by tongs, patent tongs, or diving under this Act; and generally