

(3) Protective equipment, including helmets, turnout coats and pants, boots, eyeshields, gloves, and self-contained respiratory protection units;

(4) Any other equipment necessary to carry out the ordinary functions of supporting fire fighting and rescue activities; or

(5) Facilities used to house fire fighting equipment, ambulances, and rescue vehicles.

(d) (1) A grant or loan awarded under this section may not:

(i) Be used to refinance any debt or other obligation of a volunteer fire company or rescue squad incurred before July 1, 1982; or

(ii) Be expended for replacement or repair of eligible items to the extent that insurance proceeds are available for those purposes.

(2) A volunteer fire company or rescue squad receiving trust funds under this section shall provide at least a 30 percent matching dollar amount for grants or loans, as the case may be. If a volunteer fire company or rescue squad cannot reasonably provide the required dollar match prior to disbursement of trust funds, the Board of Public Works may waive that requirement or provide for repayment of the matching dollar amount within a reasonable period of time not to exceed 18 months from the date of purchase of the equipment or facilities.

(3) Funds to provide the required matching dollar amount may include contributions from local government. However, a local government may not reduce the amount of money that the volunteer fire company or rescue squad would otherwise be entitled to receive from the local government because of State financial assistance provided under this section.

(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 this Act shall take effect October 1, 1997.

May 22, 1997

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 585.

This bill extends from one to two years, the amount of time after termination of an agency agreement with an agent or broker that an insurer must continue to renew through the agent or broker any policy that has not been replaced with other insurers.