

agreement, said personnel shall be held and considered to have performed that service in the course of employment and in the line of duty in order to fully qualify for any benefits otherwise accruing.

40.

Necessary expenditures for the purposes of this subtitle shall be made out of any appropriations usually available to [fire companies or rescue squads] A FIRE, RESCUE, OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ENTITY.

41.

The foregoing sections shall be liberally construed in order to effect the purpose of this subtitle to provide for mutual aid for [fire departments and rescue squads] A FIRE, RESCUE, OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ENTITY in time of need.

42.

(a) In this section, "Board" means the Board of Trustees of the Maryland State Firemen's Association.

(b) A person who is a volunteer firefighter or individual serving on a volunteer rescue squad is eligible to receive a benefit from the Board if:

(1) The person is temporarily or permanently disabled:

(i) As a direct result of actively participating in fighting a fire or while going to or from a fire;

(ii) While performing any other duties necessary to the operation or maintenance of the fire company;

(iii) While actively participating in the [ambulance, advanced life support] EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES UNIT, or rescue work of a volunteer fire, ambulance, or rescue company or volunteer advanced life support unit in the State; or

(iv) While providing emergency or rescue assistance, whether acting alone or at the direction of or with a fire, ambulance, or rescue company or advanced life support unit; and

(2) The person is supported by the recommendation of the fire company or volunteer rescue squad of which the person is a member.

(c) A benefit under this section shall be paid from the treasury of the Maryland State Firemen's Association in an amount and in a manner that the Board determines for as long as the beneficiary is disabled.

(d) A benefit under this section shall be paid to a beneficiary regardless of:

(1) The district in which the beneficiary was disabled; or

(2) Whether the beneficiary was disabled in:

(i) This State;