

Expedited Bill No. 6-26
Concerning: Fire and Rescue Services –
Emergency Medical Services
Insurance Reimbursement Program –
Use of Revenues
Revised: 2/3/2026 Draft No. 2
Introduced: February 3, 2026
Enacted: March 17, 2026
Executive: _____
Effective: _____
Sunset Date: None
Ch. _____, Laws of Mont. Co. _____

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsors: Councilmembers Luedtke, Katz, and Mink
Co-Sponsors: Council President Fani-González, Councilmember Stewart, Council Vice President
Balcombe, and Councilmembers Jawando, Sayles, Friedson, Evans, and Glass

AN EXPEDITED ACT to:

- (1) permit the authorized local fire and rescue department (LFRD) representative to receive revenues collected under the Emergency Medical Services Insurance Reimbursement Program under certain circumstances;
- (2) specify certain permitted uses of the revenues; and
- (3) generally amend the laws regarding emergency medical services in the County.

By amending

Chapter 21, Fire and Rescue Services
Section 21-23A

Boldface	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

1 **Sec. 1. Section 21-23A is amended as follows:**

2 **21-23A. Emergency Medical Services Insurance Reimbursement Program.**

3 * * *

4 (c) *Imposition of reimbursement.* The County must impose a reimbursement
5 charge for any emergency medical services provided in the County, and,
6 unless prohibited by other law, outside the County under a mutual aid
7 agreement.

8 * * *

9 (f) *County Residents - Payment of Uninsured Portion of the Emergency*
10 *Medical Services Reimbursement.*

11 (1) County residents must not be required to pay any out-of-pocket
12 expense relating to any emergency medical services because
13 residents are deemed to have paid any co-payment, deductible, or
14 uninsured portion of the cost of emergency medical services
15 through taxes paid to the County.

16 (2) Tax revenues the County receives must be treated as payment, on
17 behalf of County residents, of the balance of each resident's
18 portion of the emergency medical services charge that is not
19 covered by the resident's insurance.

20 (3) The County Council must annually transfer from the General Fund
21 to the Consolidated Fire Tax District Fund an amount that the
22 Council estimates will not be covered by residents' insurance as
23 payment of all residents' uninsured portion of the emergency
24 medical services charge.

25 (g) *Restriction on Local Fire and Rescue Departments.* A local fire and
26 rescue department must not impose a separate charge for emergency
27 medical services.

- 28 (h) *Use of Revenue.*
- 29 (1) Except for the transfer received from the General Fund under
- 30 subsection (f), the revenues collected from the emergency medical
- 31 services reimbursement must be used to supplement, and must not
- 32 supplant, Fiscal Year 2013 expenditures appropriated in the annual
- 33 operating budget resolution (not including any expenditures of
- 34 revenue collected under this program in Fiscal Year 2013) for
- 35 emergency medical services and other related fire and rescue
- 36 services provided by the Fire and Rescue Service.
- 37 (2) The Fire Chief must create a dedicated account in the fire fund for
- 38 the revenues collected from reimbursements under this Program.
- 39 This amount must only be used for increased or enhanced fire and
- 40 rescue services above the level appropriated in Fiscal Year 2013,
- 41 as provided in paragraph (1), including new field service positions
- 42 related to expansion of 4 person staffing or opening of new fire
- 43 stations; increased training classes or capacity; facility
- 44 maintenance and repair; new or replacement apparatus, gear, or
- 45 equipment. Not more than 30 percent of this account may be spent
- 46 for personnel costs.
- 47 (3) (A) Fifteen percent of the net Emergency Medical Services
- 48 Insurance Reimbursement Program revenue must be
- 49 allocated under a procedure specified in the annual
- 50 operating budget resolution for [the benefit of local fire and
- 51 rescue departments for]:
- 52 (i) replacement or augmentation of apparatus [owned]
- 53 used by [a] one or more local fire and rescue
- 54 [department] departments;

- 55 (ii) facilities [owned] used by [a] one or more local fire
- 56 and rescue [department] departments;
- 57 (iii) training for volunteers;
- 58 (iv) gear and equipment for volunteers;
- 59 (v) administrative staff, including administrative staff of
- 60 the authorized LFRD representative, to support [a]
- 61 one or more local fire and rescue [department]
- 62 departments;
- 63 (vi) volunteer recruitment and retention; and
- 64 (vii) volunteer stand-by support.

65 (B) Any administrative staff hired or retained by a local fire and
 66 rescue department or the authorized LFRD representative
 67 using revenue allocated under this Section is not a County
 68 employee or a member of the separate merit system referred
 69 to in Section 21-16(a).

70 (C) The annual operating budget resolution under subparagraph
 71 (A) may require or authorize the distribution of revenue to
 72 either or both:

- 73 (i) the authorized LFRD representative; and
- 74 (ii) individual local fire and rescue departments.

75 (D) The Executive may enter into one or more contracts on
 76 behalf of the County to effectuate the distribution of funds
 77 as specified under subparagraph (C).

78 * * *

79 **Sec. 2. Expedited Effective Date.** The Council declares that this Act is
 80 necessary for the immediate protection of the public interest. This Act takes effect on
 81 the date on which it becomes law.

Approved:



March 17, 2026

Natali Fani-González, President, County Council

Date

Approved:

Marc Elrich, County Executive

Date

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Sara R. Tenenbaum, Clerk of the Council

Date