

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: March 30, 2026
Effective: March 30, 2026
Sunset Date: None
Ch. 5, Laws of Mont. Co. 2026

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:



March 30, 2026

Marc Elrich, County Executive

Date

This is a correct copy of Council action.



March 30, 2026

Sara R. Tenenbaum, Clerk of the Council

Date