

Subchapter 11: Table Of Contents

DIVISION 5. FIRE COMMISSION.

[Sec. 11-301. Fire Commission; membership.](#)

[Sec. 11-302. Duties.](#)

Sec. 11-303. Reserved.

DIVISION 6. VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES.

Sec. 11-304. through Sec. 11-323. Reserved.

[Sec. 11-324. Nonprofit fire companies and rescue squads; regulations.](#)

Sec. 11-325. Reserved.

[Sec. 11-326. Payment of principal and interest on bonds.](#)

[Sec. 11-327. Benefits to fire companies and rescue squads.](#)

[Sec. 11-328. Length of Service Award Program.](#)

[Sec. 11-329. Death Benefits.](#)

Sec. 11-330. Reserved.

DIVISION 7. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE CARE PROVIDERS.

[Sec. 11-331. Definitions.](#)

[Sec. 11-332. Purposes; Construction; Applicability of Division.](#)

[Sec. 11-333. Firefighter and EMS Care Provider volunteer classes.](#)

[Sec. 11-334. Junior Volunteer Firefighters and Junior EMS Care Providers.](#)

[Sec. 11-335. Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer EMS Care Providers.](#)

[Sec. 11-336. Volunteer Fire Line Officers.](#)

[Sec. 11-337. Deputy and Assistant Volunteer Fire Chiefs.](#)

[Sec. 11-338. Volunteer Fire Chiefs.](#)

[Sec. 11-339. Volunteer EMS Officers.](#)

[Sec. 11-340. Deputy and Assistant Volunteer EMS Chiefs.](#)

[Sec. 11-341. Volunteer EMS Chiefs.](#)

[Sec. 11-342. Administration of Division.](#)

[Sec. 11-343. Volunteer Fire Service Qualifications Review Board.](#)

Sec. 11-344. Reserved.

DIVISION 8. EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION FEE.

[Sec. 11-345. Definitions.](#)

[Sec. 11-346. Emergency transportation; fees.](#)

[Sec. 11-347. Use of funds.](#)

DIVISION 5. FIRE COMMISSION.

Sec. 11-301. Fire Commission; membership. [\(Return to Top\)](#)

There shall be a Fire Commission composed of nine (9) members elected by the volunteer fire companies of Prince George's County. Each company shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote for each member of the Commission. The first election shall take place in the month of December 1970, and an election shall take place annually thereafter during the month of July. (CB-77-1974; CB-60-1979; CB-107-1979)

Sec. 11-302. Duties. [\(Return to Top\)](#)

The Fire Commission shall review the financial needs and requests for public funds of each volunteer fire company. It shall formulate annually one capital budget, one capital improvement program, and one current expense budget for all volunteer fire companies with respect to the expenditure of public funds, and shall submit said budgets and program, together with appropriate justification, to the County Executive in accordance with the provisions of the Charter. (CB-107-1979)

Sec. 11-303. Reserved.

DIVISION 6. VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES.

Sec. 11-304. through Sec. 11-323. Reserved. [\(Return to Top\)](#)

Sec. 11-324. Nonprofit fire companies and rescue squads; regulations.

(a) All existing nonprofit incorporated volunteer fire companies and/or rescue squads operating in Prince George's County are declared to be an instrumentality of Prince George's County and/or the municipality in which they operate for the protection of life and property from the hazards of fires, explosions, and related perils.

(b) No income of such existing nonprofit incorporated volunteer fire companies and/or rescue squads shall inure to any private person.

(c) The beneficial interest in any assets, real or personal, held by such existing nonprofit incorporated volunteer fire companies and/or rescue squads shall be vested in Prince George's County or the municipality wherein such volunteer fire companies and/or rescue squads are located and operating. The County or municipality shall be vested with full legal ownership of all such assets upon the retirement of all indebtedness of such volunteer fire companies and/or rescue squads.

(d) In the event of dissolution or liquidation of such incorporated fire companies and/or rescue squads, title to all assets, real or personal, held by it, shall revert to and vest in Prince George's County or the municipality in which the fire companies or rescue squads are located.

(e) The provisions of this Section shall apply to all volunteer fire companies and/or rescue squads hereinafter organized under the laws of Prince George's County. (Laws 1963, ch. 628; PLL 1963, 32-17; CB-107-1979)

Sec. 11-325. Reserved.

Sec. 11-326. Payment of principal and interest on bonds. [\(Return to Top\)](#)

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Division, the Council is authorized to direct the appropriate fiscal officer of Prince George's County, before disbursing any taxes collected pursuant to this Division to any fire company in the County, to withhold from such distribution an

amount sufficient to provide for the payment of the principal of and interest on any bonds issued by the County for the purpose of providing funds for the construction of a fire engine house or fire engine houses in the County, including the acquisition and development of sites therefor, the architectural and engineering services incident thereto, and the acquisition and installation of necessary permanent furnishings, fixed permanent equipment and fire-fighting equipment therefor. In determining the amount to be withheld, the Council may adopt such formula as it, in its discretion, shall deem equitable and just.

(b) The Council shall determine, among other things, the amount of the bond proceeds expended in each of the fire districts as defined in this Division, the amount of money required to service the bonds issued therefor and the amount of tax revenues allocable to the fire district under any of the provisions contained in this Division, but in no event shall the bond service requirement for expenditures made in any fire district exceed the amount of tax revenues allocable to such fire district as determined in accordance with the terms and provisions of this Division.

(Laws 1967, ch. 265, 1; CB-107-1979)

Sec. 11-327. Benefits to fire companies and rescue squads. [\(Return to Top\)](#)

(a) The Council shall levy a tax to provide for the payment of disability benefits to any member and death pensions to a widow and/or minor legitimate children of any member of the volunteer fire departments and rescue squads of the County who are injured or killed in the line of duty as a fireman or rescue squadsman.

(b) The disability benefits or death benefits provided in this Section shall apply only to members of these volunteer fire departments or rescue squads whose equipment meets the standards as approved by the Council at the time of the injury or death.

(c) Upon proof as may be required by the Council, any such member sustaining injuries in line of duty as a fireman or member of a rescue squad which injuries disable him from being gainfully employed, he shall be entitled to receive the sum of Five Dollars (\$5.00) per day during the continuance of such disability for a period not to exceed fifty-two (52) weeks. In the event the disability shall continue for a period longer than fifty-two (52) weeks he shall then be entitled to receive the sum of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per month for the duration of the disability. In addition to the aforesaid payments, he shall be entitled to receive medical expenses, including hospitalization, up to the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

(d) In the event any such member is killed or disabled as a result of injuries in line of duty as a volunteer fireman or member of a rescue squad, his widow shall be entitled to receive the sum of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per month so long as she lives and remains unmarried. Any legitimate minor child or children of the deceased shall each be entitled to receive the sum of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) per month until the child attains eighteen (18) years of age or marries. Such payments shall be made to the mother or guardian of the child or children or other person designated by the Council.

(e) The Council shall adopt such rules and regulations as they deem necessary to administer the provisions of this Section.

(f) The Council may reduce any sums payable under this Section in an amount equal to the amount received by a beneficiary under the provisions of Article 101, Annotated Code of Maryland, entitled Workmen's Compensation.

(Laws 1955, ch. 381; Laws 1961, ch. 778, Sec. 467(f); PLL 1963, Sec. 18-11; CB-107-1979; CB-39-1999)

Editor's Note: CR-31-1975 designated the third week of May of each year to be Volunteer Fireman's Appreciation Week.

Sec. 11-328. Length of Service Award Program. [\(Return to Top\)](#)

(a) There is hereby established a Length of Service Award program for active volunteer members of the Prince George's County Fire/Rescue Service.

(b) Eligibility. Beginning July 1, 1987, any person who has reached the age of 60 and who has completed a minimum of 25 years of certified active volunteer service with any Prince George's County volunteer fire company or volunteer rescue squad or combination thereof shall be eligible to participate in the Length of Service Award Program. The requirements for eligibility are:

(1) The member must meet the active membership test under the procedures established herein.

(2) Classification as an "active" member by an individual department bylaws is not sufficient to be eligible.

(3) Volunteer members of the fire department of the City of Takoma Park shall not be eligible to participate in the program.

(c) Benefits.

(1) Effective July 1, 1987, and thereafter, any volunteer who has completed twenty-five (25) years of certified active service within the Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services Department upon reaching age 60 shall receive a payment of One Hundred Twenty-five Dollars (\$125.00) per month for fiscal year 1988; One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) per month for fiscal year 1989; One Hundred Seventy-five Dollars (\$175.00) per month for fiscal year 1990; Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) per month for fiscal year 1991 through fiscal year 2000; and Two Hundred Twenty-five Dollars (\$225.00) per month for fiscal year 2001 and for each fiscal year thereafter.

(2) A payment of Four Dollars (\$4.00) per month shall be added to the benefits described above, for each full year of Certified service in excess of 25 years. Payments shall begin on the first day of the month following eligibility. The provisions of this Section shall apply to all members currently receiving benefits upon certification of additional years.

(3) In the event that an active volunteer fireman or rescue squadsman (for purposes of this Subsection only herein defined as one who has a minimum of ten years active certified service with five years immediately preceding) attains the age of seventy (70), he shall be entitled to a payment of Four Dollars (\$4.00) per month for each year of certified service. Payments shall begin on the first day following eligibility.

(4) Once a member is receiving benefits under Subsections (c)(1) or (2), that member may annually accrue additional benefits by certified active service.

(5) In the event that:

(A) Any active volunteer is found by the Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission to be permanently disabled in the course of his employment as a volunteer fireman or rescue squadsman, as defined by the State Workers' Compensation Law; and

(B) Such disability is found by a competent medical authority, designated by the County Executive of Prince George's County, to prevent the volunteer from pursuing his or her normal occupation; then

(C) Such volunteer shall receive the benefits prescribed in Subsection (c)(1), as though he had 25 years of service and had attained the age of 60 years.

These benefits shall begin on the first day of the month following the establishment of entitlement by the medical authority established by the County Executive, and shall be retroactive to the date of injury where such date is clearly established or in the absence thereof, the date of determination of entitlement by the Workers' Compensation Commission. Claims for disability must be filed within one year after the date of injury.

(6) Once a member has received benefits under Subsection (c)(5) he may not accrue additional benefits for subsequent service.

(7) (A) In the event that any qualified volunteer shall die while receiving benefits, then his or her surviving spouse is entitled to benefits equal to fifty percent (50%) of the volunteer's benefits. These benefits shall terminate upon death or remarriage of the spouse.

(B) In the event that a qualified volunteer dies prior to receiving any benefits under this Section, his or her surviving spouse is entitled to benefits equal to fifty percent (50%) of

the benefits earned by the deceased volunteer. These benefits shall terminate upon death or remarriage of the spouse. A qualified volunteer is defined as one who has completed 25 years of certified service, or is qualified to receive benefits under this Act.

(C) Any surviving spouse receiving benefits pursuant to Subsection (c)(1) on June 30, 1987, shall be entitled to One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per month effective January 1, 1992. Effective July 1, 2000, any surviving spouse receiving benefits pursuant to Subsection (c)(1) on July 1, 2000, shall be entitled to One Hundred Twenty-five Dollars (\$125.00) per month.

(8) When a qualified volunteer dies after July 1, 1987, a burial benefit of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) shall be paid to the surviving spouse, and if there is no surviving spouse to the estate of the decedent. A qualified volunteer is defined as one who has completed twenty-five (25) years of service or is qualified to receive benefits under this Section.

(d) Funding. The Fire Commission will annually submit with the Volunteer Fire Department budgets a request for funds to pay administrative expenses and to pay those volunteer members who are eligible or will become eligible for the program. The request shall identify by name each member to receive payment and specify the number of months for which payment will be made to that individual during the fiscal year, if for less than a full year.

(e) Administration.

(1) The program shall be administered by the Office of Personnel and Labor Relations in accordance with standards and procedures established by the Prince George's County Fire Commission, the Office of Personnel and Labor Relations, and the Prince George's County Office of Finance.

(2) The Prince George's County Fire Commission and/or the Prince George's County Office of Finance and the Prince George's County Office of Audits and Investigations shall have the authority to audit records of volunteer participation in addition to any other audits required by law. The County Executive shall make available to the Fire Commission any temporary secretarial or clerical assistance as may become necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

(f) Certification. It shall be the responsibility of each participating department to maintain a detailed and accurate record for each volunteer member in accordance with the following:

(1) All records shall be maintained on forms prescribed by the Prince George's County Fire Commission.

(2) Annually on or before November 15, the Board of Directors of each department shall certify and furnish to the County Fire Commission a list of all volunteer members who have qualified for credit for the previous year. In the event a volunteer requests credit for service in more than one department, each department shall provide the points earned by that volunteer for that year. This certification shall be signed by the President and Secretary.

(3) The County Fire Commission shall review the list of each department and approve the final annual certification. The approved list of certified members shall then be returned to each department and posted for at least thirty (30) days for review by members.

(4) In computing credit for those volunteers who also serve as paid employees within the Prince George's County Fire/Rescue Service, credit shall not be given for activities performed during the individual's regularly assigned work period.

(g) Active Service Standards. For the purpose of participating in the program, a year of active volunteer service is defined as a year in which an applicant for certification has accumulated a minimum of fifty (50) points in accordance with the following point system. Points will be credited for the period of July 1, through June 30, each year and shall not be transferable from one year to the next.

(1) One point shall be credited for each hour of attendance in a training course approved by the County Fire Commission providing that not more than twenty-five (25) points may be credited for all training courses attended per year.

(2) One point shall be credited for each company or county drill attended in its entirety, providing that not more than twenty-five (25) points may be credited for all drills attended per year.

(3) One point shall be credited for each official company, county, or Maryland State meeting pertaining to fire services or rescue service attended, provided that not more than twenty-five (25) points may be credited for all meetings attended per year.

(4) One point shall be credited for each call to which a volunteer responds, providing that not more than forty (40) points may be credited for all calls responded to per year.

(5) One point shall be credited for each full night of sleep-in. One point shall be credited for each standby. A standby is defined as an on duty activity of the fire department or rescue squad, lasting for four (4) hours, not falling under one of the other categories, provided not more than twenty-five (25) points may be credited for all sleep-ins and standbys in one year.

(6) Two points shall be credited for each month of active participation in and completion of an appointed or elected officership or chairmanship of a standing committee in any Fire or Rescue Service organization in the State of Maryland. Points shall be awarded according to the following schedule:

OFFICE	MAXIMUM ANNUAL POINTS	POINTS PER MONTH
Chief, President	50	4.17
Fire Commission	50	4.17
All other elected or appointed, company, County or State association office	25	2.09
Committee, Chairmanships	25	2.09

(7) One point shall be credited for each hour of acceptable collateral duties such as, but not limited to, apparatus and building maintenance, and fire prevention, providing that not more than twenty-five (25) points may be credited for all collateral duties performed per year.

(8) A volunteer member who, during his membership, serves or has served full-time military service in the armed forces of the United States shall receive credit at the rate of five (5) points for each month served providing that not more than fifty (50) points can be credited for any calendar year. A maximum of four (4) years of creditable service may be acquired in this manner.

(h) Cost of Living Increases.

(1) Effective July 1, 1991, and thereafter, volunteers and spouses receiving benefits under this Act shall receive the cost of living increase awarded the career fire service of Prince George's County.

(CB-181-1974; CB-107-1979; CB-24-1988; CB-119-1991; CB-91-2000)

Sec. 11-329. Death Benefits. [\(Return to Top\)](#)

There shall be a death benefit of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) payable upon the death of any member of a County volunteer fire department or rescue squad whose death results from an accidental personal injury arising out of and in the course of his services to Prince George's County. This payment shall be a one time, lump sum and shall be paid within ten (10) calendar days from the date of the volunteer's death. It shall be paid to the person or persons specified by the volunteer in accordance with duly authorized personnel procedures of the County.

(CB-147-1982)

Sec. 11-330. Reserved.

DIVISION 7. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE CARE PROVIDERS.

Sec. 11-331. Definitions. ([Return to Top](#))

(a) The words defined in this Section shall have the meanings set forth below whenever they appear in this Division, unless the context in which they are used clearly requires a different meaning or a different definition is prescribed for a particular provision.

(1) **Active experience** means the aggregate cumulation of time in service either as a firefighter or EMS care provider, as the applicable case may be, including and notwithstanding whether such time in service is or has been in the capacity of a volunteer or of an employee who receives compensation therefore, or whether the same may be cumulated with an organization other than the Fire Department or any designated organization.

(2) **Active status** means that status by which any member of any designated organization shall constitute and serve in the capacity of a firefighter or EMS care provider in accordance and within any applicable class provided under this Division.

(3) **Apparatus** means any motor vehicle which is owned, operated, or maintained by any designated organization and specially equipped for the purpose of responding to fire emergencies, medical emergencies, and other incidents of crisis attended by any designated organization, saving and excepting any such motor vehicle designed for the principal purpose of administrative or other nonemergency support functions as determined by the governing body of the designated organization.

(4) **Continuing education** means a program, certification, or course of study or training, the subject matter of which is deemed and approved as substantially related to firefighting or the provision of emergency medical services, or the operation and enforcement of the provisions of this Subtitle, and includes, by way of illustration and not of limitation, an approved course for Maryland Emergency Medical Technician recertification purposes.

(5) **County experience** means active experience, only and to the extent such time in service shall be cumulated in connection with the Fire Department or any designated organization.

(6) **Designated organization** means any volunteer fire, volunteer rescue, or volunteer emergency medical service department, squad, or company established and operated in Prince George's County according to the provisions of Division 6 of this Subtitle.

(7) **Emergency Medical Service (EMS)** means the provision of first aid or application of other developed medical techniques and treatments, the purpose of which is to save life and stabilize the medical condition of victims in trauma, medical crisis, or otherwise exigent medical circumstance.

(8) **Equivalent course of study** means a program, certification, or course of study or training which is deemed and approved by the Fire Commission as materially equivalent with respect to any other such program, certification, or course.

(9) **Governing body** means a board or committee of directors or trustees, or other governing body, having legal or fiduciary or ultimate corporate control with respect to any designated organization.

(10) **Interested party** means a governing body or member of any designated organization, or any applicant to any designated organization, which is the subject of, interested in, or otherwise aggrieved by any determination made and rendered by the Qualifications Review Board or any governing body.

(11) **Medical emergency apparatus** means any basic life support ambulance or other apparatus which is designed, specially equipped, and utilized for the purpose of providing emergency medical services and the transport of victims in trauma, medical crisis, or otherwise exigent medical circumstance.

(12) **Primary EMS Care Provider** means the EMS Care Provider who shall be the most senior and provider in charge assigned to any medical emergency apparatus for the purpose of responding to any medical emergency and providing emergency medical services thereupon.

(13) **Qualifications Review Board** means the Volunteer Fire Service Qualifications Review Board established pursuant to the provisions of this Division.

(14) **Standard 1001** means the written firefighting curriculum and course of training designated as Standard 1001 by the NFPA, as established and set forth in the 1992 edition, and the certificate in respect thereto.

(15) **Standard 1021** means the written firefighting curriculum and course of training designated as Standard 1021 by the NFPA, as established and set forth in the 1992 edition, and the certificate in respect thereto.

(CB-82-1994)

Sec. 11-332. Purposes; Construction; Applicability of Division. [\(Return to Top\)](#)

(a) The underlying purposes and policies of this Division are, among others, to prescribe minimum qualifications for volunteer firefighters and volunteer EMS care providers, to establish appropriate standards of training for volunteer firefighters and volunteer EMS care providers, and to enhance the standards and quality of service provided by designated organizations.

(b) Unless otherwise indicated, the provisions of this Division shall be construed and applied liberally to promote the underlying purposes and policies specifically enumerated herein.

(c) The provisions of this Division shall apply to any designated organization and to any member who shall actively engage in firefighting, rescue operations, or the provision of emergency medical services in connection with any such designated organization.

(CB-82-1994)

Editor's Note: CR-95-1973 requested that the County Executive establish a mandatory driving safety program for the volunteer and paid members of the fire and rescue services and to provide for a comprehensive accident reporting and investigating system.

Sec. 11-333. Firefighter and EMS Care Provider volunteer classes. [\(Return to Top\)](#)

(a) Subject to the applicable provisions of this Division and for purposes of this Division, volunteer firefighters shall be designated among classes of seniority as follows:

- (1) Junior Volunteer Firefighter;
- (2) Active Volunteer Firefighter;
- (3) Volunteer Fire Line Officer;
- (4) Deputy or Assistant Volunteer Fire Chief; and
- (5) Volunteer Fire Chief.

(b) Subject to the applicable provisions of this Division and for purposes of this Division, volunteer EMS care providers shall be designated among the classes of seniority as follows:

- (1) Junior EMS Care Provider;
- (2) Active Volunteer EMS Care Provider;
- (3) Volunteer EMS Officer;
- (4) Deputy and Assistant Volunteer EMS Chief; and
- (5) Volunteer EMS Chief.

(c) No member of any designated organization shall be appointed to active status to any officer, deputy chief, assistant chief, or chief class designation provided in this Section until such time as the governing body of such designated organization or the Fire Commission shall have duly issued a certificate, in writing, which evidences that such member meets or exceeds the conditions, qualifications, and requirements applicable thereto according the provisions of this Division.

(CB-82-1994)

Sec. 11-334. Junior Volunteer Firefighters and Junior EMS Care Providers.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

(a) Prior to appointment to the capacity of a Junior Volunteer Firefighter or Junior EMS Care Provider, each applicant thereto shall establish compliance with the minimum qualifications as follows:

(1) **Age.** Such applicant shall have attained an age of not less than sixteen (16) years.

(2) **Compliance with certain qualifications and training.** Such applicant shall establish full and complete compliance with the provisions for minimum qualifications and training requirements set forth hereunder at Section 11-335, saving and except to the extent such minimum qualifications may otherwise require the attainment of any age.

(b) **Special restrictions.**

(1) No Junior Volunteer Firefighter or Junior Volunteer EMS Care Provider shall be permitted or authorized to operate any apparatus responding to an emergency alarm.

(2) No Junior Volunteer Firefighter or Junior Volunteer EMS Care Provider shall be permitted or authorized to ride as a passenger upon any apparatus until such time as they shall have satisfactorily completed the Prince George's County Volunteer Recruit School, or any equivalent course of study, and furnished to the applicable designated organization a valid work permit.

(3) No Junior Volunteer Firefighter may be permitted or authorized during emergency operations to enter a burning building or other structure until such time as they may have completed and obtained the Firefighter I certification provided at Section 11-335(b)(2) hereunder; provided that, notwithstanding the foregoing limitation, an Incident Commander acting on site at any such fire may direct, authorize, or permit such Junior Volunteer Firefighter to enter such building or structure in the event such Incident Commander shall have first determined the subject fire is placed under control.

(4) No Junior Volunteer Firefighter or Junior EMS Care Provider shall be eligible to serve as a primary EMS care provider on any medical emergency apparatus until such time as they shall have obtained a Maryland Emergency Medical Technician course certification, or any equivalent course of study.

(c) Upon attaining the age of not less than eighteen (18) years, any member who shall have qualified in accordance with the provisions of this Section as a junior firefighter or junior EMS care provider shall be duly and automatically qualified thereafter as an active firefighter or active EMS care provider, as the applicable case may be.

(CB-82-1994)

Sec. 11-335. Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer EMS Care Providers.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

(a) Except as otherwise provided herein, prior to appointment to the capacity of a volunteer firefighter or EMS care provider, whether of the junior or active class designation, each applicant thereto shall establish compliance with the minimum qualifications as follows:

(1) **Age.** Such applicant shall have attained an age of not less than eighteen (18) years.

(2) **Application.** Such applicant shall have furnished a completed application form as prescribed from time to time by the Fire Commission, which application form shall require the recordation of such information as is reasonably necessary to demonstrate that the applicant possesses the qualifications required by this Section.

(3) **Medical standards.** Such applicant shall meet or exceed such medical standards as are established by the Fire Commission, which medical standards shall be based upon reasonable tests and examinations necessary to ascertain that the applicant's physical and mental health is adequate to insure that the applicant is able to perform in firefighting or rescue operations without the threat of injury to self, other firefighters or EMS care providers, or members of the general public.

(4) **Background investigation.** Such applicant shall have authorized the conduct of, and successfully completed, a background investigation as may be determined, required, and administered by the applicable designated organization, which background investigation may include an investigation of the applicant's character, including an examination of the applicant's criminal history.

(b) Upon appointment to the capacity of junior or active firefighter, each such person appointed shall comply with each of the several training requirements set forth below; and any failure thereafter of any person to meet such requirements shall result in automatic termination of active status until such time as the same requirements shall be satisfied.

(1) Not later than twelve (12) months after the month of appointment, each junior or active firefighter shall either enroll in the Maryland Emergency Medical Technician course or in the Firefighter I certification course conducted in accordance with Standard 1001, or any equivalent course of study.

(2) Not later than thirty (30) months after the month of appointment, each junior or active firefighter shall have satisfactorily completed the Maryland Emergency Medical Technician course and obtained the Firefighter I certification in accordance with Standard 1001, or any equivalent course of study.

(3) For purposes of this Section 11-335(b), in the case of any volunteer firefighter who may attain the active class designation by operation of the conversion from the junior class in accordance with the provisions of Section 11-334(c), the month of appointment shall be determined and deemed to be the month during which they were first appointed to such junior class designation.

(c) Upon appointment to the capacity of Active Volunteer EMS Care Provider, each such person appointed shall comply with each of the several training requirements set forth below; and any failure thereafter of any person to meet such requirements shall result in automatic termination of active status until such time as the same requirements shall be satisfied.

(1) Not later than eighteen (18) months after the month of appointment, each Active Volunteer EMS Care Provider shall have completed and obtained a Maryland Emergency Medical Technician course certification, or any equivalent course of study.

(2) For purposes of this Section 11-335(c), in the case of any Volunteer EMS Care Provider who may attain the active class designation by operation of the conversion from the junior class in accordance with the provisions of Section 11-334(c), the month of appointment shall be determined and deemed to be the month during which they were first appointed to such junior class designation.

(d) **Restrictions.**

(1) No Active Volunteer Firefighter or Active Volunteer EMS Care Provider shall be eligible to operate, or ride as a passenger upon, any apparatus until such time as they shall have satisfactorily completed the Prince George's County Volunteer Recruit School, or any equivalent course of study.

(2) No Active Volunteer Firefighter may be permitted or authorized during emergency operations to enter a burning building or other structure until such time as they may have completed and obtained the Firefighter I certification provided at Section 11-335(b)(2) hereinabove; provided that, notwithstanding the foregoing limitation, an Incident Commander acting on site at any such fire may direct, authorize, or permit such Active Volunteer Firefighter to enter such building or structure in the event such Incident Commander shall have first determined the subject fire is placed under control.

(3) No Active Volunteer Firefighter or Active EMS Care Provider shall be eligible to serve as a primary EMS care provider on any medical emergency apparatus until such time as they shall have obtained a Maryland Emergency Medical Technician course certification, or any equivalent course of study.

(CB-82-1994)

Sec. 11-336. Volunteer Fire Line Officers. [\(Return to Top\)](#)

(a) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of a Volunteer Fire Line Officer, each eligible member of any designated organization shall establish compliance with the minimum qualifications as follows:

(1) **Age.** Such member shall have attained an age not less than the number of years determined according to the following schedule:

RANK	YEARS OF AGE
Sergeant	19
Lieutenant	20
Captain	21

(2) **Experience.** Such member shall have cumulated a minimum number of years active experience in the capacity of a firefighter, such minimum number of years determined according to the following schedule:

RANK	YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
Sergeant	2
Lieutenant	3
Captain	3

(3) **Certification.** Such member shall have obtained a Department of Transportation First Responder course certification, or any equivalent course of study.

(b) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of a Volunteer Fire Line Officer at the rank of Sergeant or Lieutenant, each candidate therefor shall have satisfactorily completed and obtained the Firefighter II certification in accordance with Standard 1001, or any equivalent course of study.

(c) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of a Volunteer Fire Line Officer at the rank of Captain, each candidate therefor shall have satisfactorily completed and obtained the Fire Officer I certification in accordance with Standard 1021, or any equivalent course of study.
(CB-82-1994)

Sec. 11-337. Deputy and Assistant Volunteer Fire Chiefs. [\(Return to Top\)](#)

(a) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of a Deputy or Assistant Volunteer Fire Chief, each eligible member of any designated organization shall establish compliance with the minimum qualifications as follows:

(1) **Age.** Such member shall have attained an age not less than twenty-three (23) years.

(2) **Experience.** Such member shall have cumulated not less than four (4) years County experience in the capacity of a firefighter; provided, not less than two (2) years of such County experience shall be cumulated in the capacity of a fire line officer, and not less than one (1) year of such County experience shall be cumulated at the rank of Captain.

(3) **Certification.** Such member shall have obtained a Department of Transportation First Responder course certification, or any equivalent course of study.

(4) Such member shall have satisfactorily completed and obtained the Fire Officer II certification in accordance with Standard 1021, or any equivalent course of study.

(c) Not less than twelve (12) months prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of a Deputy or Assistant Volunteer Fire Chief at the interim rank of "A Chief" shall first complete one or more programs of continuing education which, in the aggregate, shall require a duration of instruction of not less than twelve (12) hours; and, in addition, on an annual basis commencing upon appointment to the capacity of Deputy or Assistant Fire Chief, whether at the interim rank of "A Chief" or "B Chief," each such person appointed shall complete one or more programs of continuing education which, in the aggregate, shall require a duration of instruction of not less than twelve (12) hours.
(CB-82-1994)

Sec. 11-338. Volunteer Fire Chiefs. [\(Return to Top\)](#)

(a) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of Volunteer Fire Chief, each eligible member of any designated organization shall establish compliance with the minimum qualifications as follows:

(1) **Age.** Such member shall have attained an age not less than twenty-four (24) years.

(2) **Experience.** Such member shall have cumulated not less than five (5) years County experience in the capacity of a firefighter; provided, not less than three (3) years of such County experience shall be cumulated in the capacity of a fire line officer or deputy or assistant chief, and not less than one (1) year of such County experience shall be cumulated in the capacity of a deputy or assistant chief.

(3) **Certification.** Such member shall have obtained a Department of Transportation First Responder course certification, or any equivalent course of study.

(4) Such member shall have satisfactorily completed and obtained the Fire Officer II certification in accordance with Standard 1021, or any equivalent course of study.

(5) **Continuing education.** Not less than twelve (12) months prior to the month of appointment, such member shall have completed one or more programs of continuing education which, in the aggregate, shall require a duration of instruction of not less than twelve (12) hours.

(c) On an annual basis commencing upon appointment to the capacity of fire chief, each such person appointed shall complete one or more programs of continuing education which, in the aggregate, shall require a duration of instruction of not less than twelve (12) hours.
(CB-82-1994)

Editor's Note: CR-96-1974 provided that any officer in a volunteer fire department who completes the Manager and Supervisor Program offered by the Prince George's Community College shall be reimbursed for the cost of the course.

Sec. 11-339. Volunteer EMS Officers.

(a) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of a Volunteer EMS Officer, each eligible member of any designated organization shall establish compliance with the minimum qualifications as follows:

(1) **Age.** Such member shall have attained an age not less than the number of years determined according to the following schedule:

RANK	YEARS OF AGE
Sergeant	19
Lieutenant	20
Captain	21

(2) **Experience.** Such member shall have cumulated a minimum number of years active experience in the capacity of an EMS care provider, such minimum number of years determined according to the following schedule:

RANK	YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
Sergeant	2
Lieutenant	3
Captain	3

(b) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of a Volunteer EMS Officer, each candidate therefore shall have satisfactorily completed the Prince George's County Volunteer Recruit School, or any equivalent course of study.

(c) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of a Volunteer EMS Officer at the rank of Captain, each candidate therefor shall have satisfactorily completed the Fire Officer I certification in accordance with Standard 1021, or the EMS Officer I training course, or any equivalent course of study relating directly to the duties and operation of EMS officers.

(d) **Certification.** Prior to and during any appointment to the capacity of a Volunteer EMS Officer, each officer so appointed shall maintain in current and good standing the Maryland Emergency Medical Technician certification, or equivalent course of study.
(CB-82-1994)

Sec. 11-340. Deputy and Assistant Volunteer EMS Chiefs. [\(Return to Top\)](#)

(a) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of a Deputy or Assistant Volunteer EMS Chief, each eligible member of any designated organization shall establish compliance with the minimum qualifications as follows:

(1) **Age.** Such member shall have attained an age not less than twenty-three (23) years.

(2) **Experience.** Such member shall have cumulated not less than four (4) years County experience in the capacity of an EMS care provider; provided, not less than two (2) years of such County experience shall be cumulated in the capacity of an EMS officer, and not less than one (1) year of such County experience shall be cumulated at the rank of Captain.

(b) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of Deputy or Assistant Volunteer EMS Chief, each candidate shall have satisfactorily completed the Prince George's County Volunteer Recruit School, or any equivalent course of study.

(c) **Training.** Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of Deputy or Assistant Volunteer EMS Chief, each candidate therefor shall have satisfactorily completed and obtained the Fire Officer II certification in accordance with Standard 1021, the EMS Officer II training course, or any equivalent course of study relating to the duties of EMS officers.

(d) **Certification.** Prior to and during any appointment to the capacity of Deputy or Assistant Volunteer EMS Chief, each deputy or assistant chief so appointed shall maintain in current and good standing the Maryland Emergency Medical Technician certification, or equivalent course of study.

(e) Not less than twelve (12) months prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of a Deputy or Assistant Volunteer EMS Chief at the interim rank of "A Chief" shall first complete one or more programs of continuing education which, in the aggregate, shall require a duration of instruction of not less than twelve (12) hours; and, in addition, on an annual basis commencing upon appointment to the capacity of volunteer deputy or assistant EMS chief, whether at the interim rank of "A Chief" or "B Chief," each such person appointed shall complete one or more programs of continuing education which, in the aggregate, shall require a duration of instruction of not less than twelve (12) hours.

(CB-82-1994)

Sec. 11-341. Volunteer EMS Chiefs. ([Return to Top](#))

(a) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of a Volunteer EMS Chief, each eligible member of any designated organization shall establish compliance with the minimum qualifications as follows:

(1) **Age.** Such member shall have attained an age not less than twenty-four (24) years.

(2) **Experience.** Such member shall have cumulated not less than five (5) years County experience in the capacity of an EMS care provider; provided, not less than three (3) years of such County experience shall be cumulated in the capacity of an EMS officer, and not less than one (1) year of such County experience shall be cumulated in the capacity of a deputy or assistant EMS chief.

(3) **Continuing education.** Not less than twelve (12) months prior to the month of appointment, such member shall have completed one or more programs of continuing education which, in the aggregate, shall require a duration of instruction of not less than twelve (12) hours.

(b) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of Volunteer EMS Chief, each candidate shall have satisfactorily completed the Prince George's County Volunteer Recruit School, or any equivalent course of study.

(c) **Training.** Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of Volunteer EMS Chief, each candidate therefor shall have satisfactorily completed the Fire Officer II certification in accordance with Standard 1021, the EMS Officer II training course, or any equivalent course of study relating to the duties of EMS officers.

(d) **Certification.** Prior to and during any appointment to the capacity of Volunteer EMS Chief, each chief so appointed shall maintain in current and good standing the Maryland Emergency Medical Technician certification, or equivalent course of study.

(e) On an annual basis commencing upon appointment to the capacity of Volunteer EMS Chief, each such person appointed shall complete one or more programs of continuing education which, in the aggregate, shall require a duration of instruction of not less than twelve (12) hours.
(CB-82-1994)

Sec. 11-342. Administration of Division. ([Return to Top](#))

(a) **Disputes.** Subject to the provision for recommendation by the Qualification Review Board and any governing body which is an interested party, any dispute concerning the purposes, provisions, and administration of this Division shall be subject to determination by the Fire Commission.

(b) **Determinations by Fire Commission.** The Fire Commission shall have the specific authorities and responsibilities to render the following determinations provided in accordance with this Division:

(1) Any dispute concerning the issuance or failure to issue any certificate provided in accordance with the purposes, provisions, and administration of Section 11-333(c);

(2) Any determination concerning the qualification of any program, certification, or course as one which shall be deemed an equivalent course of study with respect to any other course enumerated herein, within the meaning of Section 11-331(a)(8) and purposes of this Division; and

(3) Any request of appeal tendered by an interested party with respect to any prior adverse determination provided in accordance with this Division and rendered by the Qualifications Review Board or any governing body.

(c) **Determinations by a governing body.** A governing body shall have the specific authorities and responsibilities to render the following determinations provided in accordance with this Division:

(1) Any initial determination concerning the qualifications or compliance with applicable training requirements of any firefighter or EMS care provider in active status, or any applicant for such active status;

(2) Any certification provided in accordance with the purposes, provisions, and administration of Section 11-333(c); and

(3) Any determination concerning the qualification of any program, certification, or course as one which shall be deemed substantially related to firefighting or the provision of emergency medical services, or the operations and enforcement of the provisions of this Subtitle, and shall constitute continuing education within the meaning set forth in Section 11-331(a)(4) and for purposes of this Division.

(d) **Determinations by Qualifications Review Board.** The Qualifications Review Board shall have the specific authorities and responsibilities as follows:

(1) To evaluate and make recommendation with respect to any dispute made subject to determination by the Fire Commission pursuant to the provisions of this Division, including, without limitation, any dispute concerning the issuance or failure to issue any certificate provided in accordance with the purposes, provisions, and administration of Section 11-333(c);

(2) To evaluate and develop recommendations concerning qualification of any program, certification, or course as one which shall be deemed substantially related to firefighting or the provision of emergency medical services, or the operations and enforcement of the provisions of this Subtitle, and shall constitute continuing education within the meaning set forth in Section 11-331(a)(4) and for purposes of this Division;

(3) To make such general studies, surveys, inquiries, and evaluations concerning the improvement of qualifications or training for active status; and

(4) To report its recommendations, findings, and evaluations to the Fire Commission.

(e) **Form and standards of determinations.** Any determination made pursuant to the provisions of this Division by the Fire Commission, a governing body, or the Qualifications Review Board shall be rendered in writing, and shall be certificated through attestation by any officer so authorized by the governing body in interest, and shall be made upon the basis of a preponderance of the evidence.

(f) **Procedures; regulations.** The Fire Commission shall promulgate its own rules and regulations as may be necessary and appropriate to execute its responsibilities under this Division; provided, such rules or regulations shall provide, among other things, that any appeal as provided under this Division shall be duly taken only upon the giving of timely notice thereof to the Qualifications Review Board and, further, shall provide that the Qualifications Review Board shall be afforded a period of not less than thirty (30), and not more than sixty (60) days, from the date of notice for the purpose of evaluating such appeal and making such recommendations as provided herein.

(CB-82-1994)

Sec. 11-343. Volunteer Fire Service Qualifications Review Board. [\(Return to Top\)](#)

(a) There is hereby established a Volunteer Fire Service Qualifications Review Board which shall monitor the development of appropriate qualifications and standards of training for volunteer firefighters and volunteer EMS care providers, and to support the enhancement of standards and qualifications of service provided by designated organizations.

(b) The Qualifications Review Board shall consist of five (5) members who shall be designated in accordance with the following:

(1) One (1) member shall be designated from, among, and by the Fire Commission, which member shall constitute and serve as Chairman of the Qualifications Review Board;

(2) Two (2) members shall be designated by the Fire Chief from and among the members of the Prince George's County Fire Service, one of which members shall be sworn to the rank of Major and the other of which shall be sworn and appointed to the position of Volunteer Division Chief;

(3) One (1) member shall be designated from among the members of the Prince George's County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, Inc., a Maryland nonstock corporation,

or its lawful successor, which is organized and existing in Prince George's County, Maryland, and which member shall be so designated by the President of such association; and

(4) One (1) member shall be designated from, by, and among the members of the Volunteer Fire Chief's Council or its lawful successor, an unincorporated and nonprofit professional association organized and existing in Prince George's County, Maryland.

(c) Each member of the Qualifications Review Board shall serve for an indefinite term, and subject to the pleasure of the person or association by which such member is so designated to serve.

(d) The Qualifications Review Board shall promulgate its own rules and regulations as may be necessary and appropriate to execute its responsibilities under this Division.
(CB-82-1994)

Sec. 11-344. Reserved.

DIVISION 8. EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION FEE.

Sec. 11-345. Definitions. [\(Return to Top\)](#)

(a) Terms used in this Division are defined as follows:

(1) **Advanced Life Support (Paramedic) Mobile Intensive Care Unit** is capable of prehospital emergency patient care involving the application of skills and knowledge contained in the Cardiac Rescue Technician and Federal Department Of Transportation Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic curriculum. This would include, but not necessarily be limited to, intravenous fluid administration, drug administration, defibrillation techniques, and the transmission of patient diagnostics via telemetry.
(CB-112-1985)

Sec. 11-346. Emergency transportation; fees. [\(Return to Top\)](#)

(a) The fees for emergency transportation provided by Prince George's County shall be as established in the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance.

(b) No person shall be denied Advanced Life Support (Paramedic) Mobile Intensive Care Unit emergency transportation because of an inability to pay the fee required by this Section, and no person shall be questioned about an ability to pay such fee at the time the service is requested or rendered.

(c) The fee required by this Section may be collected on behalf of the County by the hospital to which the patient is transported or other agents designated by the County. The County Executive is authorized to contract with hospitals or other agents for fee collection.

(d) The receipt of maximum benefits payable by Medicare or Medicaid in accordance with applicable government regulations in payment of any fee imposed by this Section shall be accepted as payment in full.

(e) The County Executive is authorized to prescribe regulations for the implementation and administration of this Division. A copy of the adopted regulations and any amendments thereto shall be filed with the Clerk of the Council for review, comment, or action by the Prince George's County Council within thirty (30) days.

(CB-112-1985; CB-34-1991)

Editor's Note: CB-22-1996 increased the fee for transporting people by one of the Mobile Intensive Care Units from \$100 to \$200. Basic ambulance service is provided without charge.

Sec. 11-347. Use of funds. [\(Return to Top\)](#)

Revenues from the fees imposed for emergency transportation provided by the County shall be used for operating and capital expenses related to emergency transportation, including

Advanced Life Support (Paramedic) Mobile Intensive Care Unit services, as set forth in the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance.
(CB-112-1985; CB-34-1991)