



State of Maryland

Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems

Wes Moore
Governor

Clay B. Stamp
Chairman, EMS Board

Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH
Executive Director

Maryland Emergency Medical Systems Operations Fund

**House Appropriations Committee
Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee
Chair, Delegate Jazz Lewis
January 29, 2026**

**Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
Public Safety, Transportation and Environment Subcommittee
Chair, Senator Shelly Hettleman
February 6, 2026**

**Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH
MIEMSS Executive Director**

The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) is an independent state agency that coordinates all components of the statewide EMS system in accordance with policies set by the State EMS Board and Maryland statute and regulation. MIEMSS' areas of responsibility include medical oversight, promulgating statewide clinical protocols, coordinating and supporting EMS educational programs, licensing and certifying EMS clinicians, maintaining and operating a statewide communications system, designating trauma and specialty centers, licensing and regulating commercial ambulance services, and participating in EMS-related public education and prevention programs.

The MEMSOF provides support for MIEMSS and initiatives that benefit our entire statewide EMS system. We are grateful for the efforts of the General Assembly to ensure the ongoing viability of the Fund, and especially for legislation passed in 2024 that averted an impending Fund solvency problem. Had it not been addressed, the impacts on the operation of our statewide EMS system would have been devastating.

The MEMSOF Budget Overview analysis by Madelyn Miller is comprehensive and thoughtful. We thank her for her work.

The heart of the Maryland's EMS system is the 20,000 EMS clinicians (emergency medical responders, emergency medical technicians, cardiac rescue technicians, and paramedics). In the past year MIEMSS certified 1,895 new emergency medical technicians, and licensed 290 new paramedics. In 2025, the EMS system answered more than 1 million calls for help, and safely transported more than 586,000 Marylanders to emergency departments and trauma centers. EMS clinicians treat patients in need of life-saving emergency care using clinical protocols developed by MIEMSS with subject matter experts, and promulgated as regulations by the EMS Board. Aiding clinicians in the care they provide is the Statewide EMS Communications system, maintained by MIEMSS, that provides the communications capabilities for EMS clinicians to consult about patient care decisions with hospital base-station physicians throughout the state. EMS clinicians transport emergency patients to designated trauma and specialty centers that have been verified by MIEMSS as capable of providing timely and high-quality care. Maryland's specialty centers include 11 adult and pediatric trauma centers, 38 stroke centers, 24 cardiac interventional centers, perinatal referral centers, a hand trauma center, an eye specialty center, and 2 burn centers.

MIEMSS closely monitors EMS-to-Emergency Department transfer times – the elapsed time it takes for EMS personnel to effect transitions of patient care after arrival at an emergency department. MIEMSS sends weekly transfer time reports to hospital and emergency department leadership, who can use the information to improve processes and monitor progress in prioritizing arriving EMS patients. EMS-to-Emergency Department transfer of care information is also provided monthly to the Health Services Cost Review Commission as part of its challenge to hospitals to engage in improvement efforts. This performance metric has meaningful impacts on the EMS system and the communities it serves. Data indicate that transfer of care intervals have continued to improve modestly over the past year. Nearly 50% of emergency departments meet the 35-minute target more than 90% of the time.

During the past year, MIEMSS developed and deployed the Emergency Department Advisory System (EDAS), a web-based platform that provides a real-time indication of the “busyness” of emergency departments in terms of current patient census and enroute and recently arrived EMS traffic. EDAS is helping to balance EMS input to emergency departments, and feedback has been quite positive.

We also support public efforts to provide emergency care until EMS arrives at the scene. With support from the Maryland Office for Overdose Response, we are working toward an October 2027 target to co-locate naloxone with automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in specific public locations. Currently, there are more than 17,000 AEDs registered in the MIEMSS public AED registry. Of those, 1,380 are co-located with naloxone.

These are just a few examples of how MEMSOF funding has sustained Maryland’s EMS system and enabled it to respond to the needs of emergency patients throughout our state. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss these initiatives. We are grateful for your support and look forward to continuing to work with you. We are happy to answer any questions.



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**William Frohna, MD, FACEP
State Emergency Medical Services Board**

Good afternoon. On behalf of the State EMS Board, thank you for the opportunity to discuss the status of the Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations Fund (MEMSOF). I also want to thank Madelyn Miller of the Department of Legislative Services for her comprehensive analysis of the MEMSOF and its future.

Maryland's EMS system is a coordinated statewide network that includes 29 jurisdictional EMS operational programs, volunteer and career EMS clinicians, medical and nursing personnel, hospital emergency departments, trauma and specialty care centers, and communications systems. It has been recognized as a national model for emergency medical care. The State Emergency Medical Services Board, whose members are appointed by the Governor, oversees the statewide EMS system and reviews and approves the budgets of some of the entities supported by the MEMSOF.

For over thirty years, the MEMSOF has provided support for critical components of our statewide EMS system:

- MIEMSS,
- MSP Aviation Command's Medevac Program,
- Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute,
- R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, and
- Amoss Fund grants that provide monies to local jurisdictions for the purchase of fire and rescue equipment and capital building improvements.

The MEMSOF is mostly funded by a motor vehicle registration fee surcharge. A much less amount is derived from fines related to moving violations.

In 2024 the General Assembly passed crucial legislation that increased the motor vehicle registration surcharge. Subsequently, a looming and potentially disastrous structural deficit in the MEMSOF was averted. It also provided additional support for the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund, and the Senator Amoss Fund grants. You will hear from our partners today how vital that funding is to their day-to-day operations.

The State EMS Board remains focused on the health of the MEMSOF. Although recent projections based on analyses by DBM and DLS indicate fund solvency through 2033, we are cognizant that such projections are not sensitive to less than forecasted revenue or unplanned expenditures. We are aware, for example, that tens of thousands of Marylanders each year avoid registering their vehicles in the state. Parenthetically, we are supportive of legislative efforts to address that matter. Further, contemplation of additional support from the MEMSOF for MSP Aviation Command should, as prerequisites, include at least two things: 1) Verification of mission profiles and expenses, to ensure appropriate categorization, by another agency with subject matter expertise, and 2) Acknowledgement that such support will accelerate depletion, and insolvency, of the MEMSOF to occur within the next few years, necessitating another round of fee-raising if the funding source remains as is. In the meantime, the EMS Board is attentive to the budgets of our partners, especially the portions derived from the MEMSOF.

As we continue our never-ending pursuit of excellence, the EMS Board is incredibly grateful for the leadership of the Governor and General Assembly to ensure the vitality of the MEMSOF. The EMS Board and our partners are thankful for your ongoing support of Maryland's EMS system.



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COLONEL
MICHAEL A. JACKSON
ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

January 29, 2026

House Appropriations Committee
Public Safety & Administration Subcommittee
Delegate Gabriel Acevero, Chair
Delegate Julian Ivey, Vice Chair

MEMSOF Operating Budget Fiscal 2027: Maryland Department of State Police Written Testimony

The Maryland State Police Aviation Command (MSPAC) has served as Maryland's premier provider of statewide aviation services for 55 years. Its mission includes emergency medical services, law enforcement, search and rescue, homeland security, and disaster assessment. MSPAC operates ten Leonardo AW139 helicopters and one fixed-wing aircraft from seven strategically located bases, providing 24/7 coverage. Coordinated by a central operational control center staffed by dedicated Maryland State Police and Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems communications specialists, MSPAC has transported nearly 200,000 patients since its first medevac in 1970, playing a critical role in enhancing public safety and saving lives statewide.

MSPAC's team of 180 sworn and civilian personnel works tirelessly both on the front lines and behind the scenes. Their combined efforts ensure the safe operation and maintenance of aircraft, as well as the delivery of essential administrative support, sustaining the Command's vital five-tier mission platform. A 2020 independent study highlighted the effectiveness of MSPAC's basing structure, noting that the strategic placement of its seven bases and integration within the emergency medical system enabled a response rate of at least 95 percent, ensuring helicopters could arrive on scene within 25 minutes. This efficiency underscores MSPAC's commitment to providing timely, lifesaving services to Maryland's residents. MSPAC continues to maximize its multi-mission capability by leveraging the advanced performance of the AW139 helicopter and the expertise of its highly skilled personnel, ensuring exceptional service delivery across its diverse operations.

MEMSOF Operating Budget Fiscal 2027: MDSP Written Testimony

In 2025, MSPAC, with the support of its pilots, trooper/flight paramedics, and maintenance technicians, safely completed 1,971 scene medevacs, transporting 2,004 patients. These missions included 98 double-patient medevacs and one triple-patient medevac. In addition, MSPAC responded to 126 law enforcement missions, conducted 171 search and rescue missions, and completed 13 hoist and aerial rescue operations, resulting in the rescue of 13 individuals. MSPAC pilots logged more than 2,511 flight hours in support of the Command's mission.

In May 2023, MSPAC launched the nation's first statewide whole blood program, equipping all seven helicopter sections with low-titer O-positive whole blood to treat critically injured patients. This innovative program, developed in partnership with the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center and the University of Maryland Medical Center Blood Bank, has saved countless lives by addressing severe blood loss prior to hospital arrival. Since its inception, 364 units have been transfused to 279 patients, including 154 units administered to 116 patients in 2025 alone. The program operates with exceptional efficiency, rotating 1,835 units without waste by returning unused blood to Shock Trauma for use by other patients.

MSPAC expresses its deep appreciation for the collaborative efforts of the House and Senate Budget Committees, the MEMSOF Coalition, the Emergency Medical Services Board, the Department of Budget and Management, and the Department of Legislative Services in addressing budget challenges. The resolution of MEMSOF's forecasted insolvency during the 2024 legislative session was critical. MSPAC remains committed to responsibly utilizing the Fiscal Year 2027 budget to uphold its mission of delivering exemplary airborne public safety aviation services to the citizens of Maryland.

Respectfully,



Major M. R. Tagliaferri
Aviation Commander
Maryland Department of State Police