

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1208 (Delegate Fisher)
Ways and Means

Calvert County - Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreements - Emergency Services

This bill authorizes Calvert County to use revenue collected from any payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreement in effect on or after October 1, 2026, in an amount that the county commissioners deem appropriate to support services organizations and support services programs in the county. Support services must comply with specified criteria in order to receive funding.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not alter the amount of revenue received by Calvert County through PILOT agreements but rather authorizes the county commissioners to distribute revenue received through these agreements to various support services organizations and support services programs in the county.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: A first due area is defined as a delineated geographical area approved by the Calvert County Fire and Rescue Commission in which a volunteer fire company or rescue squad normally provides fire or rescue services in the event of a fire or another emergency.

A support services organization includes: (1) Calvert County fire companies and rescue squads; (2) the Calvert Advanced Life Support Unit; (3) the Calvert County Rescue Dive

Team; and (4) other volunteer fire, rescue, and medical entities and emergency service providers designated by the county commissioners.

A support services program includes: (1) debt service for fire-fighting and rescue equipment, apparatuses, and facilities; (2) the Calvert County Length of Service Award Program; (3) Calvert County volunteer recruitment and retention programs; (4) Calvert County property tax incentive programs for volunteers; and (5) other volunteer fire, rescue, medical, and other emergency service programs designated by the county commissioners.

Current Law: A PILOT is an agreement between a jurisdiction and a developer, business, or landowner that substitutes a negotiated payment for annual real estate taxes that are traditionally due on a property. Calvert County public local laws authorize PILOTs for certain local utilities. Calvert County has two PILOT agreements; an agreement with Constellation, the Calvert Cliff’s nuclear power plant; and an agreement with Cove Point, the liquid natural gas (LNG) plant at Cove Point. Both of these agreements expired June 30, 2023; however, the county commissioners were able to renegotiate the agreements during fiscal 2025 resulting in the PILOT revenues becoming retroactive to July 1, 2023, for the entirety of fiscal 2024. **Exhibit 1** shows the amount of revenue Calvert County receives from the two PILOT agreements for fiscal 2024 through 2026. **Exhibit 2** shows the county general fund expenditures for emergency medical services for those same fiscal years.

Exhibit 1
Calvert County PILOT Revenues

<u>PILOTs</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2026</u>
Constellation	\$17,628,371	\$20,500,000	\$21,500,000
Cove Point LNG	60,000,000	58,689,570	60,000,000
Total	\$77,628,371	\$79,189,570	\$81,500,000

LNG: liquid natural gas
PILOT: payment in lieu of taxes

Source: Department of Legislative Services; FY 2026 Calvert County Budget

Exhibit 2
Calvert County Expenditures for EMS

<u>Public Safety</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2026</u>
Fire-Rescue-EMS Division	\$709,389	\$701,657	\$652,374
Volunteer Fire-Rescue-EMS Departments	4,779,742	5,071,692	5,222,892
Career EMS Department	6,430,024	5,480,573	6,594,163
Total	\$11,919,155	\$11,253,922	\$12,469,429

EMS: emergency medical services

Source: Department of Legislative Services; FY 2026 Calvert County Budget

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 1540 of 2025.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Calvert County; State Department of Assessments and Taxation; Department of Legislative Services

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me/hlb

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