



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 369**

*January Session, 2003*

House Bill No. 6540

*House of Representatives, April 15, 2003*

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through REP. WALLACE of the 109th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE POLICE.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 7-313a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

3 The authorities having the supervision of the fire department of any  
4 town, city, borough or district may appoint such number of persons,  
5 within available appropriations, as they deem necessary to be fire  
6 police officers of such municipality or district, who shall have the  
7 powers and perform the duties in such municipality or district as  
8 designated and authorized by the fire chief of such municipality or  
9 district, and such fire police officers may exercise such powers and  
10 duties in any adjoining municipality or district while on duty with the  
11 fire department or with a cooperating fire department, where the  
12 department is engaged in mutual assistance. Such powers and duties  
13 shall include traffic control and regulation and may be exercised by  
14 such fire police during any fire drill or fire call or at any other time



The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Type</b>	<b>FY 04 \$</b>	<b>FY 05 \$</b>
Fire Prevention & Control, Com.; Public Safety, Dept.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:**

<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Effect</b>	<b>FY 04 \$</b>	<b>FY 05 \$</b>
Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE - Cost	Potential	Potential

**Explanation**

The bill requires fire police officers to wear certain outer clothing and carry certain equipment during the execution of various duties. Passage of the bill would result in cost to those municipalities that do not currently possess what is mandated by the bill.<sup>1</sup> Those municipalities that would be impacted have not been identified at this time.

<sup>1</sup> The clothing and equipment specifically described in the bill includes white helmets, traffic safety vests, orange or lime green raincoats & outer clothing, orange wands, portable traffic control devices, appropriate badges and flashlights.

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

HB 6540

**AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE POLICE****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires any fire police officer directing traffic after dark or during inclement weather while wearing a white "fire police helmet" also to wear a traffic safety vest, orange or lime-green raincoat, or reflectorized orange or lime-green outer clothing. The law already requires this outerwear when the fire officer is wearing a regulation fire police dress uniform cap. The bill requires that the outerwear meet national, state, and local traffic safety standards.

The bill (1) allows officers to carry an orange wand as an alternative to the currently required red wand for night time illumination; (2) requires them to use hand held or portable traffic control devices appropriate for the time of day, weather, and traffic flow; and (3) requires an officer's appointing town or district to supply the traffic control equipment, in addition to the helmet, cap, vest, raincoat or other outer clothing, badge, and flashlight that the town must supply under current law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 20 Nay 0

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 14 Nay 1