



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 127

January Session, 2005

Substitute House Bill No. 5040

House of Representatives, April 4, 2005

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. DARGAN of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING LEAVE FOR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES RESPONDING TO FIRE CALLS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2005*) Any municipal employee
2 who is an active volunteer firefighter or member of a volunteer
3 ambulance service or company (1) may, without authorization from
4 the employing municipality, be permitted to leave work in order to
5 respond to fire calls or ambulance calls during such employee's regular
6 hours of employment without loss of pay, vacation time, sick leave or
7 earned overtime accumulation, and without prejudice to opportunity
8 for promotion or continued employment, or (2) shall be permitted to
9 respond to such calls prior to reporting for work without loss of pay,
10 vacation time, sick leave or earned overtime accumulation, and
11 without prejudice to opportunity for promotion or continued
12 employment, provided in either case, (A) if requested by the
13 municipality, such employee submits a written statement from the

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: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 06 \$	FY 07 \$
Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE - Cost	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal

Explanation

The bill, which allows municipal employees to leave work or arrive late to work in order to respond to an emergency call without losing compensation or any other employment benefits, could potentially result in a cost to the impacted municipality. In order for the employing municipality to meet minimum staffing levels if an employee responds to a fire call, it may be necessary to have employees work overtime, or call in employees that normally had the time off. These costs are expected to be minimal.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5040

**AN ACT CONCERNING LEAVE FOR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES
RESPONDING TO FIRE CALLS**

SUMMARY:

This bill sets conditions allowing municipal employees who are active volunteer firefighters or members of a volunteer ambulance service or company to miss work time without prior permission and without penalty if they (1) leave work to respond to an emergency call or (2) are late for work because they responded to a call prior to work.

Under the bill the following two criteria must be met for an employee to avoid loss of pay or other penalty: (1) if requested by a municipality, the employee must submit a written statement from the chief of the volunteer fire department or the medical director or chief administrator of the volunteer ambulance company verifying that the employee responded to a call and specifying the date, time, and duration of the response, and (2) the leave from work must not result in the employing municipality's failure to meet minimum staffing levels.

If an employee meets these criteria, he may not suffer any loss of pay, vacation time, sick leave, or earned overtime accumulation, and will not suffer prejudice in promotion opportunities or continued employment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2005

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 9 Nay 2

Public Safety Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 20 Nay 2