



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 527

January Session, 2005

Substitute House Bill No. 5040

House of Representatives, April 26, 2005

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 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 be permitted to leave work in
4 order to respond to fire calls or ambulance calls during such
5 employee's regular hours of employment without prejudice to
6 opportunity for promotion or continued employment, or (2) shall be
7 permitted to respond to such calls prior to reporting for work without
8 prejudice to opportunity for promotion or continued employment,
9 provided in either case, (A) if requested by the municipality, such
10 employee submits a written statement from the chief of the volunteer
11 fire department or the medical director or chief administrator of the
12 volunteer ambulance service or company verifying that such employee
13 responded to a fire or ambulance call and specifying the date, time and

14 duration of such response, and (B) such employee's leave from work
15 does not result in the employing municipality's failure to meet
16 minimum required staffing levels. For purposes of this section,
17 "municipality" has the same meaning as in section 7-425 of the general
18 statutes, and "municipal employee" means any officer or employee of a
19 municipality.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2005</i>	New section

PD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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, with permission from their employer, in order to respond to an emergency call without jeopardizing their employment or opportunity for promotion, 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 jeopardizing their employment or opportunity for promotion if they (1) leave work, with permission, 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 prejudice to his employment or to his promotion opportunities: (1) if requested by the municipality, an employee must submit a written statement from the volunteer fire department's chief or the volunteer ambulance company's medical director or chief administrator verifying that such employee responded to a call and specifying the date, time, and duration of such response and (2) the leave from work must not result in the employing municipality's failure to meet minimum staffing levels.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2005

BACKGROUND***Legislative History***

On March 1, the Labor Committee reported the bill favorably with a change of reference to the Public Safety and Security Committee and, on March 15, Public Safety voted the bill out, with substitute language, to the floor. The House referred the bill (File 127) to the Planning and Development Committee. On April 13, Planning and Development voted it out with substitute language removing the protection against loss of pay, vacation time, sick leave, or earned accumulated overtime for employees responding to emergency calls under the bill's provisions and removed the ability to leave work to respond to an

emergency call without permission from the employer.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 9 Nay 2

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 2

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 15 Nay 0