



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 123

January Session, 2005

Substitute Senate Bill No. 818

Senate, April 4, 2005

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through SEN. DAILY of the 33rd Dist. , Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATING IN HOMELAND SECURITY DRILLS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2005*) (a) For the purposes of
2 this section, "volunteer organization" means an organization that (1)
3 provides first responder, rescue or emergency medical transportation
4 services, or is a volunteer fire company that provides emergency
5 medical or rescue services, as part of its duties, and (2) relies
6 exclusively or primarily upon volunteers to provide such services.

7 (b) Each volunteer organization that conducts a homeland security
8 drill at the request of the Department of Emergency Management and
9 Homeland Security that exceeds twenty-four consecutive hours in
10 length shall compensate any volunteer with such organization who is
11 otherwise employed and participates in such drill at the same rate as
12 such volunteer is compensated in his or her employment in the public

13 or private sector.

14 (c) In the event any such volunteer is injured, disabled or dies in the
15 course of any such drill, such volunteer shall be compensated in
16 accordance with the provisions of chapter 568 of the general statutes to
17 the same extent that he or she would have been compensated for such
18 injury, disability or death occurring in the course of his or her
19 employment in the public or private sector.

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

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Subdivision designators (1) and (2) were added to subsection (a) for clarity.

PS *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO*

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: None

Explanation

The bill requires volunteer organizations to reimburse volunteers who participate in drills exceeding 24 hours in length, at a rate equal to the rate received by their regular employer. This does not result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

This bill also provides volunteers who are injured or die during a homeland security drill the same workers' compensation benefits they would have received if these events had occurred in the course of their public or private sector employment. This provision of the bill will not result in a cost to the state as the volunteer organization conducting the homeland security drill is responsible for providing workers' compensation benefits to their volunteers.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 818

**AN ACT CONCERNING VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATING IN
HOMELAND SECURITY DRILLS****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires any volunteer organization that conducts a homeland security drill at the request of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security that exceeds 24 consecutive hours to compensate participating volunteers at the same rate they are compensated in their public- or private-sector job. It gives volunteers who die or are disabled or injured in the course of any such drill the same workers' compensation benefits that they would have received if these events had occurred in the course of their employment in the public- or private-sector.

The bill defines a "volunteer organization" as one that (1) provides first responder, rescue, or emergency medical transportation services, or is a volunteer fire company that provides emergency medical or rescue services, as part of its duties and (2) relies exclusively or primarily upon volunteers to provide such services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2005

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 22 Nay 0