



# Senate

## File No. 638

General Assembly

February Session, 2006

**(Reprint of File No. 27)**

Substitute Senate Bill No. 72  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
April 27, 2006

### **AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF EMERGENCY PERSONNEL BICYCLES WITH AUDIBLE WARNING DEVICES.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 14-286e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

3 (a) [A] Any police officer, firefighter or emergency service personnel  
4 operating a bicycle in response to an emergency call or while engaged  
5 in rescue operations or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or  
6 suspected violator of the law shall be exempt from the provisions of  
7 sections 14-286, 14-286a, 14-286b, 14-286c and 14-289 provided (1) the  
8 police officer, firefighter or emergency service personnel is sixteen  
9 years of age or older, (2) the police officer, firefighter or emergency  
10 service personnel is wearing a distinctive uniform, and [(2)] (3) the  
11 police officer has completed a course of instruction in basic police  
12 bicycle patrol certified by the Police Officer Standards and Training  
13 Council or an equivalent course of instruction, and the firefighter or  
14 emergency service personnel has completed an equivalent course of  
15 basic bicycle patrol.

16 (b) The exemptions granted in subsection (a) of this section shall  
17 apply only when such bicycle is making use of an audible warning  
18 signal device, including, but not limited to a siren, whistle or bell.

19 (c) The provisions of this section shall not relieve the operator of a  
20 bicycle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all  
21 persons and property.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	14-286e

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:

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

#### **State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 07 \$</b>	<b>FY 08 \$</b>
Various State Agencies	All Funds - Cost	195-325 per individual	195-325 per individual

#### **Municipal Impact:**

<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Effect</b>	<b>FY 07 \$</b>	<b>FY 08 \$</b>
All Municipalities	Cost	195-325 per individual	195-325 per individual

#### **Explanation**

The bill requires firefighters and emergency medical personnel responding to emergency calls, engaging in rescue operations, or pursuing criminals, to wear a distinct uniform, use an audible signal, and receive training in a basic bicycle patrol course (certified by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, or an equivalent course).

It is estimated that 100 firefighters and emergency medical personnel would require training annually. To the extent that municipalities and state agencies employing such personnel participate in training, the cost ranges from \$195-\$325 per individual.

The bill also requires firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical personnel responding to emergency calls, engaging in rescue operations, or pursuing criminals be at least sixteen years of age, which is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

House "A" added age limits, and will not result in a fiscal impact.

***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 72 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF EMERGENCY PERSONNEL BICYCLES WITH AUDIBLE WARNING DEVICES.*****SUMMARY:**

The bill exempts firefighters and emergency services personnel from state laws and local regulations governing bicycle operations on highways, under certain conditions. Currently, police officers responding to emergency calls, engaged in rescue operations, or pursuing actual or suspected criminals are exempt if they (1) completed a basic bicycle patrol course certified by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council or an equivalent course and (2) wear a distinctive uniform and use an audible signal such as a siren, whistle, or bell. The bill adds the requirement that the officers be at least age 16, and it applies the exemptions to emergency service personnel and firefighters in these same circumstances.

\*House Amendment "A" adds the minimum age qualification.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2006

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/07/2006)