



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 697

January Session, 2007

Substitute House Bill No. 6338

House of Representatives, May 2, 2007

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. MERRILL of the 54th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR FIRE SERVICE TRAINING.

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

1 Section 1. Section 7-323p of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

3 (a) The Office of State Fire Administration shall maintain and
4 operate a state fire school which shall serve as the training and
5 education arm of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control. The
6 use of any hazardous material, as defined in section 29-307a, except a
7 virgin fuel, is prohibited in the simulation of any fire. The office shall
8 fix fees for training and education programs and sessions and for such
9 other purposes deemed necessary for the operation and support of the
10 school, subject to the approval of the commission. Such fees shall be
11 used solely for training and education purposes.

12 (b) The commission may establish and maintain a state fire school
13 training and education extension account, which shall be a separate
14 account within the General Fund. The account shall contain any

15 moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. The account
16 may be used for the operation of such training and education
17 extension programs and sessions as the Office of State Fire
18 Administration may establish, [and] for the purchase of such
19 equipment as is required for use in the operation of such programs and
20 sessions, and for the costs of Firefighter I certification of municipal
21 volunteer and paid fire service personnel and state agency fire service
22 personnel. All proceeds derived from the operation of the training and
23 education extension programs and sessions shall be deposited in the
24 General Fund and shall be credited to and become a part of the
25 resources of the account. All direct expenses incurred in the conduct of
26 the training, certification and education programs and sessions shall be
27 charged, and any payments of interest and principal of bonds or any
28 sums transferable to any fund for the payment of interest and principal
29 of bonds and any cost of equipment for such operations may be
30 charged, against the account on order of the State Comptroller. Any
31 balance of receipts above expenditures shall remain in the account to
32 be used for its training and education programs and sessions, and for
33 the acquisition, as provided by section 4b-21, alteration and repairs of
34 real property for educational facilities, except such sums as may be
35 required to be transferred from time to time to any fund for the
36 redemption of bonds and payment of interest on bonds, provided
37 repairs, alterations or additions to educational facilities costing fifty
38 thousand dollars or less shall require the approval of the
39 Commissioner of Public Works, and capital projects costing over fifty
40 thousand dollars shall require the approval of the General Assembly
41 or, when the General Assembly is not in session, of the Finance
42 Advisory Committee.

43 (c) The commission may establish and maintain a state fire school
44 auxiliary services account, which shall be a separate account within the
45 General Fund. The account shall be used for the operation,
46 maintenance and repair of auxiliary service facilities and for such other
47 auxiliary activities of the state fire school as the Office of State Fire
48 Administration determines. The proceeds of such activities shall be
49 deposited in the General Fund and shall be credited to and become a

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 chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 08 \$ | FY 09 \$ |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Fire Prevention & Control, Com. | GF - Implements the Budget | 1,500,000 | 1,545,000 |

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

| Municipalities | Effect | FY 08 \$ | FY 09 \$ |
|------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Various Municipalities | Savings | Potential | Potential |

Explanation

The bill modifies the state fire school training and education extension account. The bill requires that the money deposited into the account be spent on Firefighter I certification, for both volunteer and career departments. The Appropriations Act, sHB 7077, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee contains \$1.5 million in FY 08 and \$1.545 million in FY 09 for this purpose.

Municipalities that currently pay for firefighters to attend Firefighter I certification would realize savings as a result of the bill.

The Out Years

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

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6338*****AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR FIRE SERVICE TRAINING.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill specifies that money in the state fire school training and education extension account may be used to pay for Firefighter I certification for paid and volunteer firefighters. By law, the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, which maintains this General Fund account, may already use the account for training and education programs and sessions, which, in practice, include Firefighter I certification programs.

The bill specifies that the account must contain any money required by law to be deposited into it. By law, firefighters pay a fee to participate in training and education programs and sessions. The account consists of proceeds from these programs.

The bill requires some and allows other costs to be charged against the account, on the comptroller's order. Direct expenses must be charged. Interest payments, principal, and equipment costs may be charged.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 21 Nay 0 (02/27/2007)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 47 Nay 0 (04/17/2007)