



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 590

February Session, 2008

Substitute Senate Bill No. 180

Senate, April 14, 2008

The Committee on Appropriations reported through SEN. HARP of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING FIREFIGHTER TRAINING.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 7-323p of the 2008 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

4 (b) The commission may establish and maintain a state fire school
5 training and education extension account, which shall be a separate
6 account within the General Fund. The account shall contain any
7 moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. The account
8 may be used for the administration and operation of such training and
9 education extension programs and sessions as the Office of State Fire
10 Administration may establish, for the purchase of such equipment as is
11 required for use in the operation of such programs and sessions, and
12 within available resources, for (1) reimbursement to municipalities and
13 municipal fire departments for [one-half of] the costs of Firefighter I,
14 Firefighter II, Recruit Firefighter, Fire Service Instructor I and Fire
15 Officer I certification and recruit training of municipal volunteer and

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 09 \$
Fire Prevention & Control, Com.	GF - Implements the Budget	1,000,000
Fire Prevention & Control, Com.	GF - Cost	338,000
Various State Agencies	Various - Savings	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 09 \$
Various Municipalities	Savings	See Below

Explanation

The bill allows reimbursement to municipalities and state agencies for the full costs of Firefighter I and Recruit Firefighter training, and expands reimbursement eligibility to Firefighter II, Fire Service Instructor I, and Fire Officer I training and certification courses. It also allows the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control (CFPC) to use its fire school training account for administrative costs associated with providing reimbursements.

Current law allows for reimbursement of one-half of the costs of Firefighter I and Recruit Firefighter training. Each year an average of 500 Firefighter I and 225 Recruit Firefighter trainees complete certification and training; full reimbursement for these classifications would result in an additional cost of \$805,000. In addition, an average of 500 Firefighter II, 220 Fire Service Instructor I, and 150 Fire Officer I trainees complete training and certification annually. Reimbursement for these classifications would result in a cost of \$487,000.

It is anticipated that two Fiscal Administrative Managers within CFPC would be required to work overtime in collecting forms,

inputting data, verifying completion of training, and issuing reimbursement checks, at a cost of approximately \$45,500 annually.

Full reimbursement for the foregoing items would result in an additional cost of \$1,338,000 above the original FY 09 appropriation of \$795,000.

sHB 5021, the budget bill, contains additional funding in the amount of \$1.0 million to partially fund the reimbursement expansion. The bill would result in a cost of \$338,000¹ to the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control (CFPC) in FY 09 to fully implement the allowable provisions contained within it.

To the extent that municipal and state agency personnel complete the aforementioned training and certification programs, there is a cost savings associated with the reimbursement for the cost of these classes.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation. Funding for the bill from FY 10 and beyond would be subject to the appropriations made available in future budgets.

¹ This amount does not include funding for administering Candidate Physical Ability Tests (CPAT), which is not required as a prerequisite for training by CFPC, but which is a prerequisite requirement for many municipal paid and volunteer fire departments. The inclusion of funding for CPATs would cost an additional \$150,000.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 180

AN ACT CONCERNING FIREFIGHTER TRAINING.

SUMMARY:

This bill expands the purposes for which the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control may use its fire school training and education extension account, expanding the number of programs for which the commission may provide reimbursement. But it requires that reimbursements be made within available appropriations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2008

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING AND EXTENSION ACCOUNT PURPOSES

By law, the commission may maintain this account for specified purposes. Under current law, it may use the account to (1) operate education and extension programs the Office of State Fire Administration establishes and (1) reimburse one-half the cost of Firefighter I certification and recruit training for municipal volunteer and paid firefighters and state agency firefighters.

The bill (1) allows the commission to use the account for administering, as well as operating, the training and education extension programs and sessions; (2) increases, from one-half to 100%, the reimbursement for the Firefighter I program; (3) expands the programs for which the commission may provide reimbursements to include Firefighter II, Recruit Firefighter, Fire Service Instructor I, and Fire Officer I and authorizes full reimbursements for them; and (4) authorizes the reimbursements within available resources. Reimbursements are made to municipalities, municipal fire departments, and state agencies, as applicable.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 23 Nay 0 (02/28/2008)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 52 Nay 0 (03/28/2008)