



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 780**

January Session, 2013

Substitute House Bill No. 6424

*House of Representatives, May 9, 2013*

The Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding reported through REP. WIDLITZ of the 98th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING FEES FOR SEARCHES OF ACCIDENT AND INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 29-10b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

3 The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
4 shall charge the following fees for the item or service indicated:

5 (1) Each search of the record files made pursuant to a request for [a  
6 copy of] an accident or investigative report which results in no  
7 document being produced, [six dollars, and on and after July 1, 1993,]  
8 sixteen dollars; [.]

9 (2) Each search of the record files made pursuant to a request for an  
10 accident or investigative report which results in a document being  
11 produced but of which no copy is made, twenty-five cents per page of

12 the document produced; and

13 [(2)] (3) Each copy of an accident or investigative report, [six dollars,  
14 and on and after July 1, 1993,] sixteen dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2013	29-10b

**FIN**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 14 \$</b>	<b>FY 15 \$</b>
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Revenue Gain	Less than 10,000	Less than 11,000
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Cost	570,000	588,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	191,000	197,000

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill, which modifies the fee schedule associated with searches and copies of accident and investigation records of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), would result in both a revenue gain and cost to DESPP.

Introducing a fee of \$0.25 per page for searches of accident and investigation records that produce a document of which no copy is made is anticipated to result in a revenue gain of less than \$10,000 in FY 14 and less than \$11,000 in FY 15. This assumes that the number of document requests received by DESPP in 2012, 38,823, continues to grow by 3% per year and that each document averages 4 pages.

The move to a per page fee for searches and copies of DESPP accident and investigative reports would also require additional staff to handle request processing that is currently automated by the

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<sup>1</sup>The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 34.54% of payroll in FY 14 and FY 15.

department's DocView system. It is estimated that at least one additional office assistant (\$42,685), with work station (\$1,160), would be required at each of the 12 State Police troops and headquarters for a total cost of \$570,000 (plus fringe benefits) in FY 14 and \$588,000 (plus fringe benefits) in FY 15.

***The Out Years***

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

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6424*****AN ACT CONCERNING FEES FOR SEARCHES OF ACCIDENT AND INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill imposes a 25 cents per page fee the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) charges when searching, upon request, record files for an accident or investigative report, where a document is produced but no copy is made.

By law, DESPP charges \$16 for each (1) search of a record file, for accident or investigative reports, that does not produce a document or (2) copy of such reports.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

**BACKGROUND*****Legislative History***

The House referred the original bill (File 403) to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, which reported a substitute that eliminated the 25 cents per-search or -page charges and retained the current \$16 flat fee for (1) searches that do not produce a document and (2) each copy of a report.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 0 (03/21/2013)

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 50 Nay 0 (05/01/2013)