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**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 5666*****AN ACT CONCERNING GRANTS TO DISTRESSED MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE TRAINING OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the state fire administrator to award a grant beginning in FY 22, and each year after, to any distressed municipality with a volunteer fire department to cover the cost of providing Firefighter I certification and recruit training at regional fire schools. The grant amount must equal the product of the (1) average number of enrolled volunteer firefighters in the distressed municipality and (2) average cost of the certification and training program at a regional fire school. (Presumably, the average cost is for the preceding four years, as discussed below.) The bill appropriates \$70,000 per year from the General Fund, in FYs 22 and 23, to the state fire administrator for the grants.

Additionally, the bill imposes two reporting requirements relating to the grant. First, it requires each distressed municipality's volunteer fire department chief to report to the state fire administrator by January 1, 2022, and each year after, on the yearly average number of volunteer firefighters who enrolled in Firefighter I certification and recruit training based on the preceding four years, excluding 2020. Second, it requires the state fire administrator to report to the Appropriations Committee, by February 1, 2022, and each year after, on the annual reports of enrolled firefighters submitted by the chiefs and the average certification and training program cost at a regional fire school.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 21 Nay 1 (03/18/2021)