



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 257**

January Session, 2021

House Bill No. 5666

*House of Representatives, April 6, 2021*

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. ELLIOTT of the 88th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING GRANTS TO DISTRESSED MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE TRAINING OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) Not later than January 1,  
2 2022, and annually thereafter, the chief of a volunteer fire department  
3 for a distressed municipality, as defined in section 32-9p of the general  
4 statutes, shall submit to the State Fire Administrator a report on the  
5 yearly average of the number of volunteer firefighters from such  
6 municipality's volunteer fire department who enrolled in Firefighter I  
7 certification and recruit training based on the preceding four years,  
8 except the year commencing January 1, 2020, shall not be included in  
9 any such four preceding years for purposes of calculating such average.

10 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, and each fiscal year  
11 thereafter, the State Fire Administrator shall award a grant to any  
12 distressed municipality with a volunteer fire department for the  
13 purposes of covering costs related to the provision of Firefighter I

14 certification and recruit training for volunteer firefighters at regional fire  
 15 schools. The amount of such grant award for each such distressed  
 16 municipality shall be equal to the product of (1) average cost of a  
 17 Firefighter I certification and recruit training program at a regional fire  
 18 school, and (2) the average number of volunteer firefighters from such  
 19 distressed municipality's volunteer fire department who enrolled at a  
 20 regional fire school for such certification and training.

21 (c) Not later than February 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the State  
 22 Fire Administrator shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of  
 23 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of  
 24 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
 25 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies a report on the (1)  
 26 reports submitted by the chiefs of volunteer fire departments of  
 27 distressed municipalities pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, and  
 28 (2) average cost of a Firefighter I certification and recruit training  
 29 program at a regional fire school.

30 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2021*) The sum of seventy thousand dollars is  
 31 appropriated to the State Fire Administrator, from the General Fund, for  
 32 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, for grants to distressed  
 33 municipalities with a volunteer fire department pursuant to the  
 34 provisions of subsection (b) of section 1 of this act.

35 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2021*) The sum of seventy thousand dollars is  
 36 appropriated to the State Fire Administrator, from the General Fund, for  
 37 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, for grants to distressed  
 38 municipalities with a volunteer fire department pursuant to the  
 39 provisions of subsection (b) of section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section

**HED**      *Joint Favorable*

*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:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Cost	70,000	70,000

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Savings	Up to 70,000	Up to 70,000

**Explanation**

The bill requires the state to award grants to distressed municipalities with volunteer fire departments for the purposes of covering costs for Firefighter 1 training resulting in an estimated cost of \$70,000 in FY 22 and FY 23 to the state. Firefighter 1 training costs approximately \$1,200 per person and distressed municipalities with volunteer fire departments send an estimated 58 people for training per year.

The bill also results in a potential savings of up to \$70,000 in FY 22 and FY 23 to distressed municipalities with volunteer fire departments to the extent these municipalities previously funded Firefighter 1 training for their volunteer firefighters.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to number of new volunteer firefighters in distressed municipalities.

**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)