



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 680

January Session, 2021

Substitute House Bill No. 5666

House of Representatives, May 12, 2021

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute 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) the 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.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2021	New section

APP *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:

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**sHB 5666****AN ACT CONCERNING GRANTS TO DISTRESSED MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE TRAINING OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS.****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the state fire administrator to annually award a grant, beginning in FY 22, 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 described below.)

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 (1) chiefs' annual reports of enrolled firefighters and (2) average certification and training program cost at a regional fire school.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

BACKGROUND***Legislative History***

The House referred the bill (File 257) to the Appropriations

Committee, which reported a substitute that eliminates the provisions appropriating \$70,000 per year from the General Fund, in FYs 22 and 23, to the state fire administrator for the grants.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 21 Nay 1 (03/18/2021)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 47 Nay 1 (05/03/2021)