



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 274

January Session, 2021

Senate Bill No. 119

Senate, April 6, 2021

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through SEN. BRADLEY of the 23rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT EXEMPTING VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES AND DEPARTMENTS AND VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICES AND COMPANIES FROM THE FEE FOR A CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK.

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

1 Section 1. Section 29-11 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (a) The bureau in the Division of State Police within the Department
4 of Emergency Services and Public Protection known as the State Police
5 Bureau of Identification shall be maintained for the purposes of: (1)
6 Providing an authentic record of each person sixteen years of age or over
7 who is charged with the commission of any crime involving moral
8 turpitude, (2) providing definite information relative to the identity of
9 each person so arrested, (3) providing a record of the final judgment of
10 the court resulting from such arrest, unless such record has been erased
11 pursuant to section 54-142a, and (4) maintaining a central repository of
12 complete criminal history record disposition information. The

13 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection is directed
14 to maintain the State Police Bureau of Identification, which bureau shall
15 receive, classify and file in an orderly manner all fingerprints, pictures
16 and descriptions, including previous criminal records as far as known
17 of all persons so arrested, and shall classify and file in a like manner all
18 identification material and records received from the government of the
19 United States and from the various state governments and subdivisions
20 thereof, and shall cooperate with such governmental units in the
21 exchange of information relative to criminals. The State Police Bureau of
22 Identification shall accept fingerprints of applicants for admission to the
23 bar of the state and, to the extent permitted by federal law, shall
24 exchange state, multistate and federal criminal history records with the
25 State Bar Examining Committee for purposes of investigation of the
26 qualifications of any applicant for admission as an attorney under
27 section 51-80. The record of all arrests reported to the bureau after March
28 16, 1976, shall contain information of any disposition within ninety days
29 after the disposition has occurred.

30 (b) Any cost incurred by the State Police Bureau of Identification in
31 conducting any name search and fingerprinting of applicants for
32 admission to the bar of the state shall be paid from fees collected by the
33 State Bar Examining Committee.

34 (c) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
35 shall charge the following fees for the service indicated: (1) Name
36 search, thirty-six dollars; (2) fingerprint search, seventy-five dollars; (3)
37 personal record search, seventy-five dollars; (4) letters of good conduct
38 search, seventy-five dollars; (5) bar association search, seventy-five
39 dollars; (6) fingerprinting, fifteen dollars; (7) criminal history record
40 information search, seventy-five dollars. Except as provided in
41 subsection (b) of this section, the provisions of this subsection shall not
42 apply to any (A) federal, state or municipal agency, (B) volunteer fire
43 company or department, or (C) volunteer ambulance service or
44 company. The commissioner shall not require a volunteer fire company
45 or department or a volunteer ambulance service or company to provide
46 proof of insurance as a condition to receiving the waiver of fees

47 pursuant to the provisions of this subsection.

48 (d) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
49 may enter into one or more agreements with independent contractors
50 requiring such contractors to receive and transmit by electronic means
51 fingerprints and demographic information to the State Police Bureau of
52 Identification for the processing of criminal history records checks. The
53 commissioner shall require such contractors to: (1) Collect and remit the
54 fee charged for fingerprinting, as provided in subsection (c) of this
55 section, to the State Police Bureau of Identification, and (2) comply with
56 terms and conditions as the commissioner shall prescribe to protect and
57 ensure the security, privacy, confidentiality and value of the
58 fingerprints and demographic information received and transmitted by
59 such contractors. The commissioner may authorize such contractors to
60 charge a convenience fee, which shall not exceed fifteen dollars, for
61 fingerprinting.

62 (e) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
63 may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54,
64 necessary to implement the provisions of the National Child Protection
65 Act of 1993, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of
66 1994, the Volunteers for Children Act of 1998, and the National Crime
67 Prevention and Privacy Compact as provided in section 29-164f to
68 provide for national criminal history records checks to determine an
69 employee's or volunteer's suitability and fitness to care for the safety
70 and well-being of children, the elderly and individuals with disabilities.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2021	29-11

PS *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 \$
Emergency Services and Public Protection, Dept.	Applicant Fingerprint Card Submission Account - Potential Revenue Loss	See Below	See Below
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Loss	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Savings	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill exempts volunteer fire departments and volunteer ambulance services from the fees for criminal history records checks resulting in a potential revenue loss to the General Fund and the Applicant Fingerprint Card Submission Account and potential savings to municipalities.

To the extent that volunteer fire departments and volunteer ambulance services conduct these background checks results in a potential revenue loss to the General Fund and the Applicant

Fingerprint Card Submission Account¹. There are approximately 500 new volunteer fire fighters per year who may be required to pass some or all these background checks (the number of new volunteer ambulance services workers is unknown). Below is a list of the following fees these volunteers will be exempt from under the bill:

- Name search - \$36
- Fingerprint search - \$75
- Personal record search - \$75
- Letters of good conduct search - \$75
- Bar association search - \$75
- Fingerprinting - \$15
- Criminal history record search - \$75

The bill also results in potential savings to municipalities to the extent they're currently paying these fees for volunteer firefighters and ambulance services workers.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of new volunteer firefighters and ambulance services workers and background checks conducted.

¹ Fingerprinting fees are deposited into this account and are used for IT support and maintenance for the fingerprinting systems.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 119*****AN ACT EXEMPTING VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES AND DEPARTMENTS AND VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICES AND COMPANIES FROM THE FEE FOR A CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK.*****SUMMARY**

This bill exempts volunteer fire companies or departments, as well as volunteer ambulance services or companies, from the fees that the law requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to charge for certain services. Existing law already exempts federal, state, and municipal agencies from these fees.

The bill also prohibits the DESPP commissioner from requiring these volunteer fire and ambulance organizations to provide proof of insurance as a condition of receiving the fee waivers.

Under the bill, the fees DESPP must waive are as follows:

1. name search, \$36;
2. fingerprint search, \$75;
3. personal record search, \$75;
4. letters of good conduct search, \$75;
5. bar association search, \$75;
6. fingerprinting, \$15; and
7. criminal history record information search, \$75.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/18/2021)