



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 611

PRINTERS NO. 2678

PRIME SPONSOR: Mustio

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2013/14	FY 2014/15
Municipal Funds	\$0	\$0
State Workers Insurance Fund	\$0	\$0
Workmen's Compensation Administration Fund	\$0	\$0

**SUMMARY:** Clarifies workers' compensation coverage for paid firefighters and EMS professionals who act in the same capacity as volunteers for another municipality's fire or EMS department when off-duty. Also applies to individuals of volunteer rescue or lifesaving squads, including a river rescue company. This legislation would take effect immediately.

**ANALYSIS:** This legislation amends the Workers' Compensation Act (Act 338 of 1915) to clarify the availability and application of workers' compensation coverage for injuries suffered by a paid fireman or an EMS professional performing similar services in his/her off-duty hours as a volunteer for an organization based in another municipality. The legislation also clarifies coverage for a member of a volunteer rescue or lifesaving squad, including a volunteer river rescue company.

A volunteer firefighter, a volunteer of an emergency service, and a volunteer of a rescue or lifesaving squad, including a volunteer river rescue company, will be entitled to receive workers' compensation (WC) benefits when sustaining injuries doing the following:

- Going to and returning from a fire, accident or other emergency that the volunteer service, department or squad responded to, including travel from and direct return to the individual's home, place of business or other location where the member must have been when the call or alarm was received;
- Participating in sanctioned training;
- Repairing or doing other work or activity about or on equipment or buildings and grounds which is sanctioned by the fire chief, chief or president in charge;
- Answering an emergency call for any purpose or while riding in or upon equipment owned by the volunteer service;
- Performing another volunteer-related duty as authorized by the host municipality; or
- Performing a function imposed under Section 15 of the Fire and Panic Act (Act 299 of 1927), which relates to enforcement and providing authority for individuals to enter buildings and not be hindered in performing duties.

The host municipality is considered to be the municipality in which the volunteer service, squad or company has its chief base of operation. Essentially, it is the municipality that pays the WC premium for an emergency service provider located within its boundaries.

The legislation will update references and terminology used in the act. For example, references to "ambulance corps" and "ambulance corpsmen" will be changed to "emergency medical service agencies" and volunteer emergency medical provider, respectively.

There are additional technical changes in the legislation to ensure consistency in terminology as used in the Intrastate Mutual Aid Act, a system of participating political subdivisions that works together to prevent and respond to public health and safety issues.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** This legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth or municipal funds.

**PREPARED BY:** Tim Rodrigo  
House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** November 20, 2013

*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*