



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1673

PRINTERS NO. 2762

PRIME SPONSOR: Farry

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2019/20	FY 2020/21
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: House Bill 1673, Printer's Number 2762, amends Title 35 to update and expand financial assistance programs to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters.

ANALYSIS: This bill amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) to update and expand financial assistance programs to recruit, train and retain volunteer firefighters. One such program is the "Length of Service Award Program" (LOSAP), which is defined as a system established by a volunteer fire company or volunteer firefighters' relief association to provide tax-deferred income benefits to active volunteer members of a fire service.

It expands the use of how funds of any volunteer firefighters' relief association may be spent to include: necessary training; financial assistance and materials for recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters; and to establish and pay for length of service award programs. Additional language also states that this section shall include any non-fire-company affiliated relief association in existence and receiving funds as provided for under this subchapter prior to November 23, 2010.

The bill amends Section 7418 related to audits to provide for the following:

- the State Fire Commissioner (Commissioner) shall establish and publish annually, on the Office of the Fire Commissioner's publicly accessible Internet website, eligible uses of funds;
- the commissioner may make determinations on the eligible uses of relief funds based on inquiries from fire services about the equipment or services;
- the commissioner shall maintain authority relating to eligible uses of money received; and
- the Auditor General shall immediately notify the commissioner of unauthorized expenditures involving relief funds by a volunteer firefighters' relief association.

This legislation would take effect in 60 days upon enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no impact on Commonwealth funds. Any increased costs related to financial assistance or programs would be borne by a local volunteer fire company or volunteer firefighters' relief association.

PREPARED BY: Jeffrey Clukey
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: October 23, 2019

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