



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number:	S. 0481	Introduced on February 5, 2019
Author:	Alexander	
Subject:	Firefighter Registration	
Requestor:	Senate Labor, Commerce, and Industry	
RFA Analyst(s):	A. Martin	
Impact Date:	March 14, 2019	

Fiscal Impact Summary

The expenditure and revenue impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon a response from the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR).

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on February 5, 2019

State Expenditure

Section 1 of this bill codifies current practices of LLR and the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM). Therefore, this section of the bill will have no expenditure impact.

Section 2 of this bill specifies the jurisdiction and authority of the State Fire Marshal. LLR has been asked to determine if this section adds to the responsibilities of the State Fire Marshal. The expenditure impact of this section is pending, contingent upon a response from LLR.

Section 4 of the bill requires 3 percent of the funds appropriated by the General Assembly for the Volunteer Strategic Assistance and Fire Equipment Program (V-SAFE) to be used for administrative costs associated with the program. V-SAFE is funded through a portion of the Insurance Tax Premium in addition to appropriations by the General Assembly, however, no funds were appropriated by the General Assembly for V-SAFE in FY 2018-19. Appropriations for V-SAFE for FY 2019-20 are unknown. Therefore, the expenditure impact for this section of the bill is undetermined.

Sections 5 through 8 make technical changes and revise the duties of the State Fire Marshal, deputy state fire marshals, and ex officio resident fire marshals. The expenditure impact of this section is pending, contingent upon a response from LLR.

Section 9 allows LLR, in addition to the Forestry Commission, to accept donations of new or used equipment from individuals or organizations and provides guidelines for the use of such equipment. Such donations may result in a cost savings for OSFM because it may reduce expenditures for equipment. Because the benevolence of the general public cannot be anticipated, the expenditure impact of this section is undetermined. However, OSFM has indicated previously that many fire departments have an extensive list of equipment needs. Therefore, even after receiving donations, OSFM may still need to request funding in order to meet their equipment needs.

State Revenue

Section 2 of this bill makes changes to administrative penalties assessed by OSFM. Per current regulations, OSFM may charge up to \$2,000 for each violation. This bill will reduce that maximum to \$1,000 per violation. In addition, violators may avoid this fine for a first offense if the violation is corrected within the time allotted by OSFM. These fines are to be used to defray the administrative costs associated with the duties of OSFM. The revenue impact of this section is pending, contingent upon a response from LLR.

Section 10 makes changes to fees charged by OSFM. Currently, OSFM charges a firefighter a fee of \$5 for a copy of his file. This bill will require OSFM to provide an unofficial copy of the file to the firefighter at no cost. The fee for an official copy of the firefighter's transcript will be \$3. While no definition of transcript is provided in this section, this analysis is provided under the assumption that transcript carries the same meaning as file. The revenue impact of this section is pending, contingent upon a response from LLR.

In addition, Section 10 creates a \$5 fee for a reprinted certificate. OSFM awards a variety of certifications through South Carolina Fire Academy upon completion of coursework and examination. The revenue impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon a response from LLR.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director