This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number:	S. 0728 Amended by Senate Labor, Commerce, and Industry on February 21, 2024
Author:	Gustafson
Subject:	Firefighter Residency
Requestor:	Senate Labor, Commerce, and Industry
RFA Analyst(s):	Griffith
Impact Date:	March 22, 2024

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill amends the definition of firefighter, as it relates to the Firefighter Cancer Health Care Benefit Plan, by including employees of South Carolina State Fire and deleting the requirement that the person must be a resident of this state when engaging in rescue, fire suppression, or related activities in this state. Additionally, the bill specifies that the plan shall provide benefits to a firefighter only if the firefighter has served in a South Carolina fire department for at least five continuous years and has been in active service within ten years of the diagnosis. The provisions of the bill apply to firefighters diagnosed with cancer on or after July 1, 2021.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal, which is under the administration of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR), administers the plan and reports that while the bill could increase the insurance policy premium, the current General Fund appropriation of $3,500,000 is sufficient to cover the potential increase. Therefore, there is no fiscal impact to the General Fund. The bill will also have no expenditure impact on Other Funds of LLR since the language of the bill will not require the agency to resolicit the insurance policy.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Amended by Senate Labor, Commerce, and Industry on February 21, 2024
State Expenditure
This bill amends the definition of firefighter, as it relates to the Firefighter Cancer Health Care Benefit Plan, by including employees of South Carolina State Fire and deleting the requirement that the person must be a resident of this state when engaging in rescue, fire suppression, or related activities in this state. Additionally, the bill specifies that the plan shall provide benefits to a firefighter only if the firefighter has served in a South Carolina fire department for at least five continuous years and has been in active service within ten years of the diagnosis. The provisions of the bill apply to firefighters diagnosed with cancer on or after July 1, 2021. The Office of the State Fire Marshal administers the plan, for which the current General Fund appropriation is $3,500,000. The Office of the State Fire Marshal reports that the current policy premium is $3,298,925 and that the bill could increase the policy premium by a maximum of $97,837, bringing the premium to $3,396,762. Therefore, the current General Fund

appropriation is sufficient to cover the potential premium increase. Additionally, the language of the bill would not require the State Fire Marshal to resolicit the insurance policy. Therefore, the bill will have no expenditure impact to the General Fund or Other Funds of LLR.

State Revenue
N/A

Local Expenditure
N/A

Local Revenue
N/A

Introduced on April 13, 2023
State Expenditure
This bill amends the definition of firefighter, as it relates to the Firefighter Cancer Health Care Benefit Plan, by deleting the requirement that the person must be a resident of this state when engaging in rescue, fire suppression, or related activities in this state. The Office of the State Fire Marshal, which is under the administration of LLR, administers the plan, for which the current General Fund appropriation is $3,500,000. The fiscal impact of the bill on LLR and the General Fund is pending, contingent upon further information.

State Revenue
N/A

Local Expenditure
N/A

Local Revenue
N/A

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director

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