

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005**

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**SENATE BILL 687**

Short Title: Volunteer Rescue/EMS Funding.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Senator Kerr.

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Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

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March 21, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW GOVERNING THE VOLUNTEER RESCUE/EMS  
2 FUND.  
3

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 58-87-5 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 58-87-5. Volunteer Rescue/EMS Fund.**

7 (a) There is created in the Department of Insurance the Volunteer Rescue/EMS  
8 Fund to provide grants to volunteer rescue units providing rescue or rescue and  
9 emergency medical services to purchase equipment and make capital improvements. An  
10 eligible rescue or rescue/EMS unit may apply to the Department of Insurance for a grant  
11 under this section. The application form and criteria for grants shall be established by  
12 the Department. The North Carolina Association of Rescue and Emergency Medical  
13 Services, Inc., shall provide the Department with an advisory priority listing for rescue  
14 equipment eligible for funding and the ~~The~~ Department of Health and Human Services  
15 shall provide the Department with an advisory priority listing of EMS equipment  
16 eligible for funding. The State Treasurer shall invest the Fund's assets according to law,  
17 and the earnings shall remain in the Fund. On December 15 of each year, the  
18 Department shall make grants to eligible rescue or rescue/EMS units subject to all of the  
19 following limitations:

20 (1) A grant to an applicant who is required to match the grant with  
21 non-State funds may not exceed ~~fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000),~~  
22 twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) and a grant to an applicant who  
23 is not required to match the grant with non-State funds may not exceed  
24 three thousand dollars (\$3,000).

25 (2) An applicant whose liquid assets, when combined with the liquid  
26 assets of any corporate affiliate or subsidiary of the applicant, are more  
27 than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) shall match the grant on a  
28 dollar-for-dollar basis with non-State funds.

1           (3) The grant may be used only for equipment ~~purchases, payment of~~  
2           ~~highway use taxes on those purchases,~~purchases or capital  
3           expenditures.

4           (4) An applicant may receive no more than one grant per fiscal year.

5 In awarding grants under this section, the Department shall to the extent possible select  
6 applicants from all parts of the State based upon need. Up to two percent (2%) of the  
7 Fund may be used for additional staff and resources to administer the Fund in each  
8 fiscal year. In addition, notwithstanding G.S. 58-78-20, up to four percent (4%) of the  
9 Fund may be used for additional staff and resources for the North Carolina Fire and  
10 Rescue Commission.

11       (b) A rescue or rescue/EMS unit is eligible for a grant under this section if it  
12 meets all of the following conditions:

13           (1) Repealed by Session Laws 1989 (Regular Session, 1990), c. 1066, s.  
14           33(a).

15           (2) It consists entirely of volunteer members, with the exception that the  
16           unit may have paid members to fill the equivalent of ~~three~~ 10 full-time  
17           paid positions.

18           (3) It has been recognized by the Department as an organization that  
19           provides rescue or rescue and emergency medical ~~services.~~ services, or  
20           emergency medical services only. A department that provides  
21           emergency medical services only will be eligible only after all those  
22           eligible rescue or rescue and emergency medical services that are  
23           approved have been funded each grant year, and then only to the level  
24           of emergency medical services that they are approved to provide by  
25           the authority having jurisdiction.

26           (4) It satisfies the eligibility criteria established by the Department under  
27           subsection (a) of this section.

28       (c) For the purpose of this section and Article 88 of this Chapter, "rescue" means  
29 the removal of individuals facing external, nonmedical, and nonpatient related peril to  
30 areas of relative safety. A "rescue unit" or "rescue squad" means a group of individuals  
31 who are not necessarily trained in emergency medical services, fire fighting, or law  
32 enforcement, but who expose themselves to an external, nonmedical, and nonpatient  
33 related peril to effect the removal of individuals facing the same type of peril to areas of  
34 relative safety. The unit or squad must comply with existing State statutes and with  
35 eligibility criteria established by the North Carolina Association of Rescue and  
36 Emergency Medical Services, Inc."

37           **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2005.