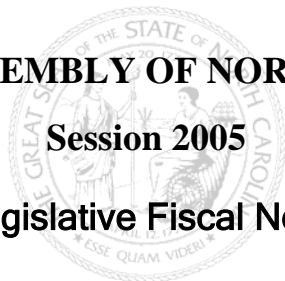


GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2005

Legislative Fiscal Note



BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 687 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Volunteer Rescue/EMS Funding.

SPONSOR(S): Senator Kerr

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes ()	No (X)	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 2005-06</u>	<u>FY 2006-07</u>	<u>FY 2007-08</u>	<u>FY 2008-09</u>	<u>FY 2009-10</u>
REVENUES					
EXPENDITURES					
POSITIONS (cumulative):					
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & Department of Insurance					
PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:					
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2005					

BILL SUMMARY¹:

This bill amends the law governing the Volunteer Rescue/EMS Fund. Specifically, it amends G.S. 58-87-5 to (1) direct the NC Association of Rescue and Emergency Medical Services, Inc., to provide the Department of Insurance with an advisory priority listing for rescue equipment eligible for funding; (2) increase the maximum grant from \$15,000 to \$25,000; (3) delete language that allows expenditure of grant funds for the payment of highway use taxes; (4) increase from three to ten the maximum number of paid positions a rescue unit may have to remain eligible for a grant; and (5) provide that a department that provides only emergency medical services is eligible for a grant but only after all those eligible rescue or rescue and emergency medical services departments that are approved have been funded, and then only to the level of emergency medical services that they are approved to provide by the authority having jurisdiction.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

This bill makes several changes to the law governing the Volunteer Rescue/EMS Fund (Fund). The Fund was established by statute to provide grants (on an application basis) to assist rescue

¹ Adopted from March 21, 2005 Bill Digest for S.B. 687.

organizations to purchase equipment and make capital expenditures. As provided for in G.S. § 20-183.7(c), the source of funding for the Fund is eighteen cents from each vehicle inspection sticker fee. Application for grants from the Fund are reviewed and scored on a non-subjective point basis that evaluates the type of positions (i.e., volunteer or paid), the number and age of the organizations' vehicles, their financial status, and the type of equipment being requested.

The changes that this bill would make include increasing the cap on the amount of a grant that an eligible rescue or rescue/EMS unit may receive and changing the criteria by which a rescue or rescue/EMS unit may be eligible for a grant from the Fund. These changes may impact the number of grants that may be awarded. However, neither the Department of Insurance nor the Fiscal Research Division believes that the changes will impact the Fund's collections or the total amount that can be awarded from the Fund. (For the past three years the Fund has averaged approximately \$1.48 million in collections. Over the same period, the Department of Insurance has received an average of 164 applications annually and has approved an average of 131 applications annually.)

SOURCES OF DATA: Department of Insurance

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

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DATE: May 25, 2005

Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices