

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 382** HLS 13RS 908
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 8, 2013 3:58 PM	Author: BERTHELOT
Dept./Agy.: Department of Public Safety	Analyst: Charley Rome
Subject: Creates Volunteer Firefighter Tuition Reimbursement	

FIRE PROTECT/FIRE MARSHAL EG INCREASE SD EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Creates a Volunteer Firefighter's Tuition Reimbursement program

Proposed law creates a volunteer firefighter's tuition reimbursement program to provide reimbursement to volunteer firefighters for attendance at a state public college, university, vocational or technical school; creates the Volunteer Firefighter's Tuition Reimbursement Fund and provides for the deposit of state general fund monies if available and appropriated by the legislature as well as any federal funds, donations or other monies that may be provided; creates the Volunteer Firefighter's Tuition Reimbursement Board, provides for membership and stipulates that members shall serve without compensation; allows the board to adopt rules and regulations for the governance of the board, requires the board to create an application and application process, determine applicant eligibility, dispense tuition reimbursements, and require status reports and education progress reports from participants; requires certain qualifications and continuing service of eligible applicants; and allows the board to adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement the program.

EXPENDITURES	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	DECREASE	DECREASE	DECREASE	DECREASE	DECREASE	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total						

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law creates a Volunteer Firefighter's Tuition Reimbursement Board and the Volunteer Firefighter's Tuition Reimbursement Fund. Proposed law may create a significant expenditure impact to the degree that a significant number of volunteer firefighters qualify for tuition reimbursement and to the degree that the legislature appropriates funds for those costs. DPS projects there will be no expenditure impact associated with establishing and assembling the board membership, creation and promulgation of rules and regulations, and creation of application and review procedures for potential volunteer firefighter applicants. Board members shall serve without compensation or reimbursement of expenses.

There is a potential expenditure associated with the reimbursement of tuition for qualified applicants. However, the potential exposure is unknown until the board meets to establish rules and regulations and until applicants begin requesting tuition reimbursement. DPS reports there are currently an estimated 12,000 volunteer firefighters in the state of Louisiana.

Proposed law provides eligibility requirements which will restrict participation, including: state residency for at least one year, volunteer history and status, minimum prior post-secondary education, education performance, and reporting. Not all volunteer firefighters will be enrolled in higher education institutions at any given time and some will not meet the established qualifications. As such it is impossible to estimate the total potential impact. It is conceivable that if a tuition benefit were regularly funded through legislative appropriation, the number of volunteer firefighters in the state may increase and potentially increase the fiscal exposure of the state.

For the purposes of potential exposure to the state, this note illustrates potential costs on a per-credit hour, per-qualified applicant basis.

Resident Tuition (per credit hour, assuming minimum full-time courseload) as of 9/7/12:

Highest Undergraduate Tuition Rate	\$ 579
Lowest Undergraduate Tuition Rate	\$ 235
Highest Community College/Technical Tuition Rate	\$ 258
Lowest Community College/Technical Tuition Rate	\$ 161
Highest Graduate Tuition Rate	\$2,288
Lowest Graduate Tuition Rate	\$ 465

REVENUE EXPLANATION

Proposed law establishes the Volunteer Firefighter's Tuition Reimbursement Fund in the State Treasury and provides for the deposit of state general fund monies through legislative appropriation, as well as allowing deposit of federal funds, donations and other monies that may be provided for this purpose. Proposed law does not identify a committed, regular, or recurrent revenue source for the fund.

<u>Senate</u>	<u>Dual Referral Rules</u>	<u>House</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H}	<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F) >= \$500,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S}	
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S&H}	<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}	

Evan Brasseaux
Evan Brasseaux
Staff Director