

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6207**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1311

**NOTE PREPARED:** Nov 16, 2007

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Medical Care for Town Firefighters.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. GiaQuinta

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                              **DEDICATED**  
                              **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** Local

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill requires a town to pay for the care of a full-time, paid firefighter who suffers an injury or contracts an illness during the performance of the firefighter's duty.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2008.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Summary-* Towns with full-time, paid firefighters could require additional expenditures if the town does not already completely cover the medical care for their firefighters. Additional town expenditures would depend on the number of full-time, paid firefighters injured or falling ill while performing their duty, which would be covered from the town general fund.

**Background-** The following towns have full-time, paid firefighters that participate in the state's 1977 Police Officer and Firefighter Pension and Disability Fund (1977 Fund): Brownsburg, Cicero, Chesterton, Fishers, Speedway, and Zionsville. Additionally, the towns of Danville and Sheridan are known to have full-time, paid firefighters that could qualify under the proposal. Westfield would currently qualify; however, the town will assume city status on January 1, 2008, six months before the effective date of this bill. The following table lists staff levels for known town full-time, paid firefighters.

<b>Town</b>	<b>Number of Full-Time Firefighters</b>
Brownsburg	86
Chesterton	11
Cicero	9
Danville	9
Fishers	129
Mooreville	15
Plainfield	53
Sheridan	16
Speedway	39
Westfield	44
Zionsville	16

**Note-** Westfield will assume city status on January 1, 2008.

*Covered Expenditures-* Under the bill, covered expenditures may include medical and surgical care; medicines and laboratory, curative, and palliative agents and means; X-ray, diagnostic, and therapeutic services, including services during the recovery period; and hospital and special nursing care if the physician or surgeon in charge considers the care necessary for proper recovery.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** A town that has paid for the care of a firefighter may seek reimbursement of the amount paid against any third party against whom the firefighter has a cause of action for an injury or an illness. This provision may result in an indeterminable increase in revenue for the town. Any additional revenue received would depend on future qualifying injuries or illness sustained by firefighters and the legal action taken.

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** Towns with full-time, paid firefighters.

**Information Sources:** Tom Hanify, President of the Professional Firefighters Union of Indiana, 630-1840; Tom Parker, Public Employee Retirement Fund, 233-4146; Westfield Fire Department 317-896-2704.

**Fiscal Analyst:** Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.