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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6849

BILL NUMBER: SB 322

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 26, 2009

BILL AMENDED: Jan 22, 2009

SUBJECT: Firefighter Training.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Charbonneau

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 1st House

**FUNDS AFFECTED: GENERAL
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill provides that a full-time firefighter employed after December 31, 2009, must complete the training for Firefighter I and Firefighter II during the firefighter's first year of employment as a full-time firefighter. It allows the education board of the Division of Preparedness and Training of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to grant 6-month extensions of time to complete the training requirements for any reason. It requires a fire department to request the extension on behalf of a firefighter employed by the department. The bill requires a fire department to report to the board when a firefighter employed by the department has completed the training requirements.

Effective Date: (Amended) January 1, 2010.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) There is no current information available on the number of firefighters nor on the number of firefighters who will be hired after December 31, 2009. If the proposal results in 20 to 30 firefighters requesting certification with the DHS each year, then the DHS could probably implement these provisions within their existing level of resources. However, if the proposal results in more than 30 firefighters requesting certification, then the DHS will likely need to hire a person to process certifications. Expenses associated with hiring an additional person are estimated at around \$35,000 annually.

The funds and resources required above could be supplied through a variety of sources, including the following: (1) existing staff and resources not currently being used to capacity; (2) existing staff and resources currently being used in another program; (3) authorized, but vacant, staff positions, including those positions that would need to be reclassified; (4) funds that, otherwise, would be reverted; or (5) new appropriations. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

The DHS reverted \$2.4 M in all funds in FY 2008, with a reversion of \$420,000 in state General Fund moneys.

Background: An individual whose employment by a fire department as a full-time firefighter begins after December 31, 2009, must complete the training for Firefighter I and Firefighter II during the firefighter's first year of employment. The fire department that employs a firefighter must report to the DHS director of the Division of Preparedness and Training when the firefighter has completed the training requirements.

The education board may grant a firefighter any number of 6-month extensions to complete the training. An extension must be requested by the fire department that employs the firefighter. An extension may be requested for any reason. The board must determine whether a firefighter receives an extension.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The fire department that employs a firefighter must report to the DHS when the firefighter has completed the training requirements or when the firefighter needs an extension. In addition to administrative expenses associated with notifying the DHS, local units are also responsible for paying for training. The impact on local training expenses is unknown.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DHS.

Local Agencies Affected: Local firefighting entities.

Information Sources: Mara Synder, DHS.

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