

**Department of Planning and Budget**  
**2003 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number** HB1885

**House of Origin**    ☒ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed

**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron**    May

**3. Committee**    Counties, Cities and Towns

**4. Title**    Local government health insurance programs; volunteer fire and rescue

**5. Summary/Purpose:** This bill authorizes any locality that provides a group health insurance program for its officers and employees to allow eligible members of approved volunteer fire or rescue companies, as determined by the locality, to participate in such program, subject to the eligibility criteria established by the locality. A participating volunteer shall pay the full cost of participation in the health insurance program.

**6. No Fiscal Impact** See Item 8 Below

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** No

**8. Fiscal implications:** This bill should not result in a direct fiscal impact to the Commonwealth. However, it may result in an increased administrative burden on the part of the localities that choose to participate. Further, there is a possibility that allowing these new groups to participate in the plan may create an increase in risk as perceived by insurance companies which could result in increased premiums for all participants in a given locality (both employers and their employees).

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** This bill allows all localities in the Commonwealth to expand health insurance coverage to volunteer firefighters and rescue squad workers but does not mandate such coverage.

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** No

**11. Other comments:** None

**Date:** 1/13/2003/JDH

**Document:** G:\2003SESSION\1-EFIS\HB1885.DOC

cc: Secretary of Administration