

Department of Planning and Budget 2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB679

House of Origin X Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Reynolds

3. Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

4. Title: Recovery of fire fighting costs by localities; volunteer fire or rescue.

5. Summary: Allows the recovery of expenses incurred by a locality, or by any volunteer fire or rescue squad, for fighting or extinguishing a fire. Expenses recovered on behalf of a locality shall be paid to the locality, and those recovered on behalf of a volunteer fire or rescue squad shall be paid to the volunteer fire or rescue squad. *This revised FIS amends the general fund dollars needed to support the additional FTE.*

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See item 8, below.

Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2008	-	-	N/A
2009	37,260	1.0	GF
2010	37,260	1.0	GF
2011	37,260	1.0	GF
2012	37,260	1.0	GF
2013	37,260	1.0	GF
2014	37,260	1.0	GF

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes. Item 103.

8. Fiscal Implications: The Code currently allows the Department of Forestry (DOF) to collect its costs incurred in responding to fires caused by individuals who negligently or intentionally start a fire or fail to contain a fire. These monies are deposited into an account for DOF's use. DOF currently responds to approximately 900 fire incidents tied to a responsible party with possible collection costs. The bill would allow localities and volunteer fire or rescue squads who respond to such a fire incident at the request of a forest warden to recover their costs. DOF would be responsible for collecting these costs on behalf of a locality or volunteer fire or rescue squad, and for returning the funds collected to the locality or volunteer fire or rescue squad. DOF estimates that the provisions of the bill would result in the department handling an additional 1,200 to 1,500 collections reimbursements on behalf of the local entities involved in an incident; the proposed legislation does not permit the department to retain any of the revenue it would collect on behalf of the local entities. According to DOF, an additional 1.0 FTE and \$37,260, from the general fund, would be

required in each year to address the additional workload associated with implementing the provisions of the bill.

It is unknown what, if any, impact additional collection efforts may have upon the applicable local Commonwealth's attorneys.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Forestry, localities, volunteer fire and rescue squads, local Commonwealth's attorneys.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/29/2008 dpbtmw

Document: G:\2008 Session\Fiscal Impact Statements\SB679.Doc

cc: Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry