

## Department of Planning and Budget 2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB679

House of Origin    ☐ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed

Second House    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☒ Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Reynolds

**3. Committee:** Passed Both Houses

**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.

**6. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Final. See item 8, below.

**7. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**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 a locality and volunteer fire or rescue squads who respond to a fire on any forestland, brushland, grassland or wasteland caused by an individual who intentionally starts a fire and fails to attempt to prevent its escape to collect its costs incurred in responding to such a fire incident.

There is no state fiscal impact associated with the legislation.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Localities, volunteer fire and rescue squads.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.

**Date:** 4/1/2008 dpbtmw

**Document:** G:\2008 Session\Fiscal Impact Statements\SB679ER.Doc

cc: Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry