

**Department of Planning and Budget
2008 Fiscal Impact Statement**

1. Bill Number: SB679

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

2. Patron: Reynolds

3. Committee: Courts of Justice

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: Preliminary. 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: 3/3/2008 dpbtmw

Document: G:\2008 Session\Fiscal Impact Statements\SB679H1.Doc

cc: Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry