

Commission on Local Government

Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact

2016 General Assembly Session

Bill: HB 1104

Patron: Murphy

Date: 1/27/2016

In accordance with the provisions of §30-19.03 of the Code of Virginia, the staff of the Commission on Local Government offers the following analysis of the above-referenced legislation:

Bill Summary:

Firefighters employed by localities; entitlement to continued compensation during period of quarantine or isolation. Provides that a firefighter who is the subject of an order of quarantine or an order of isolation as a result of potential exposure that occurred in the line of duty is entitled to the continued payment of compensation from his local employer during the period of such quarantine or isolation.

Executive Summary:

As per the provisions of HB 1104, firefighters employed by localities would be entitled to receive continued compensation during the period of quarantine or isolation as a result of potential exposure in the line of duty.

Localities have evaluated a negative fiscal impact of \$0.01 - \$5,000. The provisions of the bill would affect all local governments in some way. Localities noted that the impact could be large depending on the interpretation of the bill including questions on compensation and administration related to (1) payment of salary and overtime, and (2) compensation from workers compensation and the employer.

Firefighters in some localities already receive full compensation for the duration of a quarantine or isolation either through regular pay or worker's compensation. These localities are concerned about the potential implication and interpretation of this bill on their existing compensation procedures for quarantine and isolation.

Local Analysis:

Locality: City of Danville

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.01

We are unable to provide an estimate as we do not have any history/trend information regarding this area. However, the impact could be large depending upon the interpretation of the bill.

This bill does raise some very important questions: How will this interact with Workers Compensation? Could someone potentially draw pay in accordance to this bill and receive Workers Compensation due to one incident? Also there are not definitions for order of quarantine, order of isolation, or exposure. (for contagious/communicable diseases?) This could be interpreted in a broad manner that may not be the original intent of the bill.

Locality: City of Falls Church **Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$1.00

The City of Falls Church contracts with Arlington County who pays the professional firefighters and emergency medical technicians, so we cannot estimate the direct fiscal impact on our jurisdiction.

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**Locality:** City of Harrisonburg **Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.01

The City is not able to provide an Estimated Fiscal Impact for this.

Provided by Deputy Fire Chief.

An employee could be quarantined if exposed to a communicable disease (such as Ebola when that was an issue) ...

As far as monetary impact, that is difficult based on the wording. "Continued compensation" - does that mean payment of salary or does it mean overtime for all hours in quarantine... hard to tell at this point.

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Locality: City of Martinsville **Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$5,000.00

Considering that sometimes workers comp covers these incidents and sometimes they don't, the amount listed above would be the average firefighters salary + benefits for one month. So the impact would be dependent upon the number of firefighters x the number of days/months they would be out of work. Of course, this amount is just salary and benefits for the full-time firefighter. The actual impact would be greater, and hard to determine, because it depends upon the individual(s) covering for their absence: full-time at over-time rate, or part-time.

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**Locality:** City of Norfolk **Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$1.00

This bill as proposed will have no fiscal impact on the City of Norfolk. Currently, a firefighter receives full compensation for the duration of a quarantine or isolation either through regular pay or worker's compensation.

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Locality: City of Virginia Beach **Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$1.00

We see this issue as no additional fiscal impact (because their salary is budgeted) nor needing legislation because we would pay the salary of an individual that has been exposed to an issue causing them to be placed in quarantine.

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**Locality:** Rappahannock County **Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$1.00

We have no paid firefighters

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Locality: Rockingham County

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.01

Rockingham County would certainly continue to provide compensation in such an instance, with or without this legislation. Why would this exposure be any different than any other workman's compensation claim?

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**Locality:** Spotsylvania County

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$1.00

Given the infrequent occurrence of these types of events, we would expect the impact to be minimal.

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Locality: Town of Boones Mill

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.01

Small town does not employ firefighters. Paid staff work for the county's public safety department.

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**Locality:** Town of Buchanan

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.01

The Town of Buchanan receives fire support from the County of Botetourt. Any realized expense would be through County taxes of Town residents.

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