

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 1124

SHORT TITLE: Fire/Rescue Personnel Checks

SPONSOR(S): Representative Capps; and Watson

FISCAL IMPACT

Yes () No () **No Estimate Available (X)**

FY 1997-98 **FY 1998-99** **FY 1999-00** **FY 2000-01** **FY 2001-02**

REVENUES **No Reliable Estimate Available**

EXPENDITURES **No Reliable Estimate Available**

POSITIONS: **No Reliable Estimate Available**

**PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &
PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:** Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Information

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective when it becomes law.

BILL SUMMARY: FIRE/RESCUE PERSONNEL RECORDS CHECKS. PROVIDING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE MAY PERFORM CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECKS TO FACILITATE BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS FOR FIREFIGHTER AND RESCUE SQUAD APPLICANTS. Adds new GS 114-19.1(e) as title indicates. Dep't of Justice will process these requests as voluntary noncriminal justice criminal history records checks.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

Department of Justice

The Department of Justice, cannot provide a reliable estimate on the impact this bill may have on the Division of Criminal Information. According to the North Carolina Firemen's Association, there are approximately 34,000 volunteer firemen in the State. In addition to this number, there are 6,258 paid firemen. The Firemen's Association notes that it is doubtful that many personnel records checks would be performed at the volunteer level.

It is the belief of the Firemen's Association that most personnel records checks for criminal histories will come from the jurisdictions that have paid firemen.

The North Carolina Rescue Squad and EMT Association has an approximate membership of 18,000 individuals. This includes paid and volunteer personnel. This association already requires all members to have annual record checks on their driver licenses. Like the Firemen's Association, the Rescue Squad and EMT Association believes most checks will result in the hiring of new employees for agencies that pay.

These two organizations cannot provide an accurate number of annual new hires. Both organizations note that the total number of firemen and rescue personnel does not vary greatly from year to year.

The Division of Criminal Information notes it is impossible to estimate the number of submissions that may be received each year. Performing any new types of criminal records checks may increase the workload of fingerprint technicians and processing assistants. If a large number of checks are performed, then there may be a need to employ more technicians and processing assistants. However, since the number of firemen and rescue records checks submissions cannot be determined, it is difficult to determine the number of additional personnel that may be needed. Therefore, a reliable estimate of cost cannot be determined.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None.

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION 733-4910

PREPARED BY: Andy Willis

APPROVED BY: Tom Covington

DATE: May 28, 1998



Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices