

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 869

Short Title: Enhance State Fire Protection Grant Fund. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Blackwell, Clampitt, and Reeder (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Insurance, if favorable, Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 26, 2023

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FURTHER FUNDING AND OTHER ENHANCEMENTS TO THE STATE FIRE PROTECTION GRANT FUND.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 58-85A-1 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 58-85A-1. Creation of Fund; allocation to local fire districts and political subdivisions of the State.**

(a) There is created in the Department of Insurance the State Fire Protection Grant Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to compensate local fire districts and political subdivisions of the State for providing local fire protection to State-owned buildings and their contents.

(b) The Department of Insurance shall develop and implement an equitable and uniform statewide method for distributing any funds to the State's local fire districts and political subdivisions.

(c) It is the intent of the General Assembly to appropriate annually to the State Fire Protection Grant Fund up to ~~four million one hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$4,180,000)~~ fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) from the General Fund, one hundred fifty-eight thousand dollars (\$158,000) from the Highway Fund, and ~~one million three hundred forty five thousand dollars (\$1,345,000)~~ two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) from University of North Carolina receipts. These funds are allocated as follows:

(1) Funds received from the General Fund shall be allocated only for providing local fire protection for State-owned property supported by the General Fund; funds Fund. The Department of Insurance may reserve up to ten percent (10%) of these funds to compensate local fire districts and political subdivisions of the State for providing local fire protection to State-owned property that is under construction or first occupied during the fiscal year of the General Fund appropriation.

(2) Funds received from the Highway Fund shall be allocated only for providing local fire protection for State-owned property supported by the Highway Fund; and funds Fund.

(3) Funds received from University of North Carolina receipts shall be allocated only for providing local fire protection for State-owned property supported by University of North Carolina receipts-receipts and for property owned by nonprofit corporations or foundations associated with a constituent institution



1 of The University of North Carolina as set forth in subsection (g) of this  
2 section.

3 (d) In any fiscal year in which the annual appropriation from the General Fund to the  
4 State Fire Protection Grant Fund is less than fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000), then the  
5 amount of University of North Carolina receipts appropriated to the State Fire Protection Grant  
6 Fund is equal to two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) multiplied by a fraction,  
7 the numerator of which is the appropriation from the General Fund to the State Fire Protection  
8 Grant Fund for that fiscal year and the denominator of which is fifteen million dollars  
9 (\$15,000,000).

10 (e) Up to two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) of the funds appropriated  
11 annually from the General Fund to the State Fire Protection Grant Fund shall be allocated by the  
12 Department to provide reimbursement to local fire districts and political subdivisions of the State  
13 for State lands emergency response. The Department of Insurance shall adopt rules establishing  
14 procedures for reimbursement requests and distributions for the funds allocated by this  
15 subsection.

16 For purposes of this subsection, "State lands emergency response" means services such as  
17 search and rescue, wildfire suppression or management, and other natural disaster response  
18 activities provided on State-owned property other than the provision of fire protection to  
19 State-owned buildings and their contents.

20 (f) The Department of Insurance may reserve up to ten percent (10%) of funds  
21 appropriated from the General Fund in each fiscal year to compensate local fire districts and  
22 political subdivisions of the State for providing local fire protection to State-owned buildings and  
23 their contents.

24 (g) Up to one million one hundred fifty-five thousand dollars (\$1,155,000) of  
25 appropriated receipts from The University of North Carolina is allocated to the State Fire  
26 Protection Grant Fund to provide reimbursement to local fire districts and political subdivisions  
27 of the State for providing local fire protection to buildings owned by nonprofit corporations or  
28 foundations sited on State property through a ground lease with a constituent institution of The  
29 University of North Carolina."

30 **SECTION 2.** The sum of eleven million two hundred twenty-two thousand four  
31 hundred eighty-seven dollars (\$11,222,487) in recurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year is  
32 appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Insurance for the State Fire Protection  
33 Grant Fund. The amount of University of North Carolina receipts appropriated and allocated to  
34 the State Fire Protection Grant Fund is increased by one million one hundred fifty-five thousand  
35 dollars (\$1,155,000) in recurring funds.

36 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2023.