

FISCAL NOTE

March 6, 2023

Bill No:	SB 114	Printer's No:	18	Sponsor:	Brooks (R)
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COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2022-23	2023-24
General Fund	See "FISCAL IMPACT"	See "FISCAL IMPACT"

SUMMARY: This bill amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, further providing for firefighter and emergency service training and establishing the Secondary Education Fire Training Pilot Program and the Fire Training Fund.

ANALYSIS: SB 114 establishes the Secondary Education Fire Training Pilot Program to provide high school students with volunteer firefighter instruction through a partnership between institutions of higher education and school entities or nonpublic schools.

The State Fire Commissioner shall accept proposals from higher education institutions to participate in the program and select three institutions reasonably spread across the state. Selected institutions shall operate the program by entering into agreements with schools for the provision of fire instruction and firefighter certification to students who are in at least the ninth grade.

The Legislative Budget and Finance Committee shall conduct a study during the pilot program to determine whether the pilot program is increasing the number of volunteer firefighters and any additional recommendations.

This act shall take effect January 1, 2024, or immediately, whichever is later.

FISCAL IMPACT: SB 114 creates the Fire Training Fund as a nonlapsing restricted account but does not make an appropriation to the fund. The account may be funded by monetary donations from persons, businesses, foundations, tax-exempt organizations, and government entities. If donations are not sufficient to cover program costs, additional appropriations would be needed.

If funded, this bill requires that each of the three selected higher education institutions receive at least \$150,000 for the duration of the four-year pilot program. Money may also be appropriated to the State Fire Commissioner to carry out the provisions of this bill.

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Below are four special funds which receive direct public and private donations.

Public and Private Donations (Excluding plate, license, and registration checkoffs)		
Program	FY 2021-22 Actual	FY 2022-23 Available
Veterans Trust Fund	\$102,000	\$171,000
Pennsylvania Veterans Monuments and Memorial Trust Fund	\$ 20,000	\$ 1,000
Governor Robert P. Casey Memorial Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Trust Fund	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Children’s Trust Fund	\$ 42,000	\$ 20,000