

FISCAL NOTE

February 13, 2018

Bill No:	SB 955	Printer's No:	1450	Sponsor:	Vulakovich (R)
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COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2017-18	2018-19
General Fund	See "FISCAL IMPACT"	See "FISCAL IMPACT"
Fire Training Fund	See "FISCAL IMPACT"	See "FISCAL IMPACT"

SUMMARY: This bill would amend the Public School Code to establish the Community College Secondary Education Fire Training Pilot Program.

ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 955 would establish the Community College Secondary Education Fire Training Pilot Program to provide high school students with instruction to become a volunteer firefighter. The training program would be made through a partnership between community colleges and school districts and/or area vocational-technical schools. The State Fire Commissioner (Commissioner) would be required to accept proposals from commonwealth community colleges to offer the pilot program. From the proposals submitted, the Commissioner would select three community colleges, as defined under this act. Community colleges selected would be required to enter an agreement with a school district and/or an area vocational-technical school to provide firefighter training to students in at least the ninth grade. The training instruction provided must lead to Firefighter I certification.

Additionally, a nonlapsing restricted account, known as the Fire Training Fund would be established in the State Treasury. The Commissioner would be permitted to accept monetary donations and other monies from a person, business, foundation, tax-exempt organization or government entity on behalf of the commonwealth to deposit into the fund. The Commissioner may also receive appropriated funds to implement the provisions under this act. Any funds appropriated, donated, transferred or earned through interest must be deposited into the Fire Training Fund. Each community college would be required to receive at least \$150,000 for the duration of the program.

The Legislative Budget and Finance Committee would be required to conduct a survey of volunteer fire companies in the municipalities surrounding the school districts and area vocational-technical schools that participate in the program to determine whether the program is increasing the number of volunteer firefighters. The results of the survey would be submitted to the House and Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee within six months of the expiration date of the program.

The program would expire four years from the effective date. This bill would be effective immediately upon passage.

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FISCAL IMPACT: The Office of the State Fire Commissioner (OSFC) would incur a cost of \$450,000 or more for the duration of the pilot program. OSFC would be required to select three community colleges among a pool of applicants for the Community College Secondary Education Fire Training Pilot Program. Each community college selected would receive at least \$150,000 for the duration of the program. The pilot program would expire four years from the effective date.