

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
01/08/2007

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1204

1A. State fiscal effect: *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium		2009-2011 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues						
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

1B. County, city, and school district fiscal effect: *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium			2009-2011 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2A. Bill and fiscal impact summary: *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

The proposed legislation extends the presumption of compensability for certain conditions to volunteer firefighters.

B. Fiscal impact sections: *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

WORKFORCE SAFETY & INSURANCE
2007 LEGISLATION
SUMMARY OF ACTUARIAL INFORMATION

BILL NO: HB 1204

BILL DESCRIPTION: Presumption Clause—Volunteer Firefighters

SUMMARY OF ACTUARIAL INFORMATION: Workforce Safety & Insurance, together with its actuary, Glenn Evans of Pacific Actuarial Consultants, has reviewed the legislation proposed in this bill in conformance with Section 54-03-25 of the North Dakota Century Code.

The proposed legislation extends the presumption of compensability for certain conditions to volunteer firefighters.

FISCAL IMPACT: We do not have access to sufficient data to permit a comprehensive evaluation of the potential rate level and reserve impact of this proposed legislation. However, WSI anticipates that, if passed in its present form, the legislation will act to increase costs, possibly by a material amount, for class 7710, which is used in establishing premiums for coverage provided to volunteer firefighters. To the extent that such costs increase, local governmental entities could be faced with higher workers compensation premiums. The cost of such increases, if any, may in turn, be passed on to the community at large.

We cannot definitively predict how the claims environment may change under the proposed legislation. But, we believe that the exposure to loss presented by the proposed change could differ from that associated with paid firefighters. We understand that traditional fire fighting units have stringent standards regarding pre-employment screening, on-going health standards, training and equipment. We have no way to evaluate the degree to which such standards may differ for volunteer organizations, or the degree to which any difference that may exist would influence the cost of expanding coverage.

DATE: January 26, 2007

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

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