

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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HOUSE BILL 8

Short Title: Rescue/EMS Squad Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Anderson; Bowman and Fletcher.

Referred to: Commerce.

January 13, 1989

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO EXTEND THE VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD FUND MATCHING
3 GRANT PROGRAM TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SQUADS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 Section 1. Article 5 of Chapter 118 of the General Statutes reads as rewritten:

6 "ARTICLE 5.

7 "**VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND ~~RESCUE~~ RESCUE/EMS SQUAD**
8 **FUNDS.**

9 "**§ 118-50. ~~Rural~~ Volunteer Fire Department Fund.**

10 (a) There is created the Volunteer Fire Department Fund to provide matching
11 grants to volunteer fire departments to purchase equipment and make capital
12 improvements. The Fund shall be set up in the Department of Insurance. The State
13 Treasurer shall invest its assets according to law, and the earnings shall remain in the
14 Fund. The Fund shall be distributed under the direction of the Commissioner of
15 Insurance. Beginning January 1, 1988, an eligible fire department may apply to the
16 Commissioner of Insurance for a grant under this section. Beginning May 1, 1988, and
17 on each May 15, thereafter, the Commissioner shall make grants to eligible fire
18 departments subject to the following limitations:

- 19 (1) The size of a grant may not exceed twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000);
20 (2) The applicant shall match the grant on a dollar-for-dollar basis;
21 (3) The grant may be used only for equipment purchases or capital
22 expenditures necessary to provide fire protection services; and
23 (4) An applicant may receive no more than one grant per fiscal year.

1 In awarding grants under this section, the Commissioner shall to the extent possible
2 select applicants from all parts of the State based upon need. Up to two percent (2%) of
3 the Fund may be used for additional staff and resources to administer the Fund in each
4 fiscal year.

5 No fire department may be declared ineligible for a grant under this section solely
6 because it is classified as a municipal fire department.

7 (b) A fire department is eligible for a grant under this section if:

8 (1) It serves a response area of 6,000 or less in population;

9 (2) It is all volunteer; and

10 (3) It has been certified by the Department of Insurance.

11 In making the population determination under subdivision (1), the Department shall use
12 the latest decennial U.S. Census population data.

13 (c) The Commissioner of Insurance shall submit a written report to the General
14 Assembly within 60 days after the grants have been made. This report shall contain the
15 amount of the grant and the name of the recipient.

16 **"§ 118-51. Volunteer ~~Rescue~~ Rescue/EMS Squad Fund.**

17 (a) There is created in the Department of Insurance the Volunteer ~~Rescue~~
18 Rescue/EMS Squad Fund to provide matching grants to volunteer rescue squads and
19 volunteer emergency medical services (EMS) squads to purchase equipment and make
20 capital improvements. An eligible rescue or EMS squad may apply to the Department
21 of Insurance for a grant under this section. The application form and criteria for grants
22 shall be established by the Department and the Office of Emergency Medical Services
23 in the Department of Human Resources. The State Treasurer shall invest the Fund's
24 assets according to law, and the earnings shall remain in the Fund. Beginning
25 December 15, 1989, and on each December 15 thereafter, the Department shall make
26 grants to eligible rescue and EMS squads subject to the following limitations:

27 (1) The size of a grant may not exceed fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000);

28 (2) The applicant shall match the grant on a dollar-for-dollar basis with
29 non-State funds;

30 (3) The grant may be used only for equipment purchases or capital
31 expenditures; and

32 (4) An applicant may receive no more than one grant per fiscal year.

33 In awarding grants under this section, the Department shall to the extent possible select
34 applicants from all parts of the State based upon need. Up to two percent (2%) of the
35 Fund may be used for additional staff and resources to administer the Fund in each
36 fiscal year.

37 (b) A rescue or EMS squad is eligible for a grant under this section if:

38 (1) It serves a response area of 10,000 or fewer residents or a response
39 area that consists of an entire county;

40 (2) It is all volunteer, except that the rescue or EMS squad unit may have
41 paid members, not to exceed two positions, either full-time or part-
42 time; and

43 (3) It has been recognized by the Department as a rescue or EMS squad;
44 and

1 (4) It satisfies the eligibility criteria established by the Department under
2 subsection (a) of this section."

3 Sec. 2. G.S. 20-183.7(c) reads as rewritten:

4 "(c) Fees collected for inspection certificates shall be paid to the Division of Motor
5 Vehicles in accordance with its regulations and shall be periodically transferred as
6 follows:

7 (1) After making the transfer provided in subdivision (3) of this
8 subsection, seventy-five cents (75¢) of the fee for the valid inspection
9 sticker collected pursuant to subsection (a) shall be transferred to the
10 Highway Fund, and the remaining moneys shall be transferred to the
11 Department of Insurance for the Volunteer ~~Rescue~~-Rescue/EMS Squad
12 Fund created in G.S. ~~118-50~~-118-51.

13 (2) After making the transfer provided in subdivision (3) of this
14 subsection, the fee collected pursuant to subsection (a1) shall be
15 transferred as follows: the first thirty-five cents (35¢) to the Division
16 of Environmental Management; the next twenty cents (20¢) to the
17 Department of Insurance for the Volunteer ~~Rescue~~-Rescue/EMS Squad
18 Fund created in G.S. ~~118-50~~-118-51; and any excess up to one dollar
19 and eighty-five cents (\$1.85) to the Highway Fund.

20 (3) Five cents (5¢) of the fee for the valid inspection sticker collected
21 pursuant to subsections (a) and (a1) shall be transferred each quarter of
22 the year to the North Carolina Commissioner of Insurance, for the
23 purpose of funding the Rescue Squad Workers' Relief Fund under
24 Article 5 of General Statute Chapter 118."

25 ♦ Sec. 3. This act is effective upon ratification.