

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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HOUSE BILL 2312

Short Title: Rescue Unit Fund Changes.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Kerr, Cooper; Tart (Cosponsors) and Bowman.

Referred to: Human Resources.

June 5, 1990

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE RESCUE AND
2 RESCUE/EMS UNITS FOR EQUIPMENT AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
3 GRANTS; TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL STAFF AND RESOURCES FOR THE
4 NORTH CAROLINA FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION; TO PROVIDE MORE
5 REVENUE FOR THE STATE HIGHWAY FUND; AND TO AMEND THE
6 RESCUE SQUAD WORKERS' RELIEF FUND LAW.
7

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 Section 1. G.S. 58-87-5 reads as rewritten:

10 "**§ 58-87-5. Volunteer Rescue/EMS Fund.**

11 (a) There is created in the Department of Insurance the Volunteer Rescue/EMS
12 Fund to provide matching grants to volunteer rescue units providing ~~rescue only~~ rescue,
13 rescue and fire, or rescue and emergency medical services to purchase equipment and
14 make capital improvements. An eligible rescue or rescue/EMS unit may apply to the
15 Department of Insurance for a grant under this section. The application form and
16 criteria for grants shall be established by the Department. The Office of Emergency
17 Medical Services in the Department of Human Resources shall provide the Department
18 with an advisory priority listing of EMS equipment eligible for funding. The State
19 Treasurer shall invest the Fund's assets according to law, and the earnings shall remain
20 in the Fund. Beginning December 15, 1989, and on each December 15 thereafter, the
21 Department shall make grants to eligible rescue or rescue/EMS units subject to the
22 following limitations:

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

- 1 (2) The applicant shall match the grant on a dollar-for-dollar basis with
2 non-State funds;
- 3 (3) The grant may be used only for equipment purchases or capital
4 expenditures; and
- 5 (4) An applicant may receive no more than one grant per fiscal year.

6 In awarding grants under this section, the Department shall to the extent possible select
7 applicants from all parts of the State based upon need. Up to two percent (2%) of the
8 Fund may be used for additional staff and resources to administer the Fund in each
9 fiscal year. In addition, notwithstanding G.S. 58-78-20, up to four percent (4%) of the
10 Fund may be used for additional staff and resources for the North Carolina Fire and
11 Rescue Commission.

- 12 (b) A rescue or rescue/EMS unit is eligible for a grant under this section if:
- 13 (1) ~~It serves a response area of 10,000 or fewer residents or a response~~
14 ~~area that consists of an entire county;~~
- 15 (2) It is all volunteer, except that the rescue or rescue/EMS unit may have
16 paid members, not to exceed two positions, either full-time or part-
17 time; and
- 18 (3) It has been recognized by the Department as an organization that
19 provides ~~rescue only~~ rescue, rescue and fire, or rescue and emergency
20 medical services; and
- 21 (4) It satisfies the eligibility criteria established by the Department under
22 subsection (a) of this section.

23 (c) For the purpose of this section and Article 88 of this Chapter, 'rescue' means
24 the removal of individuals facing external, nonmedical, and nonpatient related peril to
25 areas of relative safety. A 'rescue unit' or 'rescue squad' means a group of individuals
26 who are not necessarily trained in emergency medical services, fire fighting, or law
27 enforcement, but who expose themselves to an external, nonmedical, and nonpatient
28 related peril to effect the removal of individuals facing the same type of peril to areas of
29 relative safety. The unit or squad must comply with existing State statutes and with
30 eligibility criteria established by the North Carolina Association of Rescue and
31 Emergency Medical Services, Inc."

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

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

- 36 (1) After making the transfer provided in subdivision (3) of this
37 subsection, ~~seventy-five cents (75¢)~~ seventy-seven cents (77¢) of the
38 fee for the valid inspection certificate collected pursuant to subsection
39 (a) shall be transferred to the Highway Fund, and the remaining
40 moneys shall be transferred to the Department of Insurance for the
41 Volunteer Rescue/EMS Fund created in G.S. 58-87-5.
- 42 (2) After making the transfer provided in subdivision (3) of this
43 subsection, the fee collected pursuant to subsection (a1) shall be
44 transferred as follows: the first thirty-five cents (35¢) to the Division

1 of Environmental Management; the next ~~twenty cents (20¢)~~ eighteen
2 cents (18¢) to the Department of Insurance for the Volunteer
3 Rescue/EMS Fund created in G.S. 58-87-5; and any excess up to one
4 dollar and eighty-five cents (\$1.85) to the Highway Fund.

- 5 (3) Five cents (5¢) of the fee for the valid inspection certificate collected
6 pursuant to subsections (a) and (a1) shall be transferred each quarter of
7 the year to the North Carolina Commissioner of Insurance, for the
8 purpose of funding the Rescue Squad Workers' Relief Fund under
9 Article ~~87-88~~ of General Statute Chapter 58."

10 Sec. 3. G.S. 58-88-5(b) reads as rewritten:

11 "(b) The Executive Committee of the Association shall be the Board of
12 Trustees of the Fund. The Board shall consist of the Commander, Vice-Commander,
13 Secretary-Treasurer, and two ~~immediate~~-past Commanders of the Association. The
14 Commander shall be the Chairman of the Board. The Commander, Vice-Commander,
15 and Secretary-Treasurer shall appoint the two past Commanders of the Association, who
16 shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing officers."

17 Sec. 4. G.S. 58-88-30 reads as rewritten:

18 "**§ 58-88-30. Administration costs.**

19 The Association shall withhold ~~three percent (3%)~~ eight percent (8%) from the money
20 received pursuant to G.S. 20-183.7(c) (3) for the administration of the Fund. The
21 Commissioner of Insurance shall withhold two percent (2%) from the money received
22 pursuant to G.S. 20-183.7(c) (3) for the administration of the Fund."

23 Sec. 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 1990.