

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001**

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**HOUSE BILL 1077
Committee Substitute Favorable 7/12/01**

Short Title: Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Retire.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 11, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION TO
3 STUDY ISSUES RELATED TO PROVIDING CAREER FIREFIGHTERS AND
4 RESCUE SQUAD WORKERS WITH INCREASED RETIREMENT BENEFITS.

5 Whereas, the General Assembly recognizes the inestimable contribution
6 which career firefighters and rescue squad workers of this State make in preserving and
7 protecting the lives and property of citizens of this State; and

8 Whereas, the General Assembly recognizes the need to ensure that career
9 firefighters, career rescue squad workers, and their families receive retirement benefits
10 commensurate with their commitment to service and with benefits received by other
11 emergency personnel; and

12 Whereas, the General Assembly recognizes the changing economic climate
13 which has resulted in the heightened need for intense fiscal scrutiny of legislative
14 proposals that may adversely impact the State's budget, the ability of business and
15 industry located in this State to compete in a global marketplace, the obligations of local
16 governments, and the citizenry of this State; and

17 Whereas, the General Assembly recognizes the fact that local governments
18 will bear the responsibility of providing increased benefits and that, given the changing
19 economic climate, there is uncertainty about the financial impact that providing
20 increased benefits will have on local governments; and

21 Whereas, the General Assembly recognizes the complexity of the issues
22 involved, the uncertainty in the State's current economic state, and the far-reaching
23 impact of any decisions in this matter to firefighters, rescue squad workers, local
24 governments, and citizens of this State; and

25 Whereas, the General Assembly recognizes the need to study the issues
26 thoroughly and proceed prudently; Now therefore,
27 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

28 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly authorizes the Legislative Research
29 Commission to comprehensively study issues related to providing increased retirement

1 benefits to career firefighters and rescue squad workers. If this study is undertaken, the
2 Commission shall examine the following issues:

- 3 (1) The nature and extent of retirement benefits that should be provided
4 career firefighters and rescue squad workers.
- 5 (2) The mechanism(s) through which these retirement benefits should be
6 provided.
- 7 (3) Alternatives for funding these increased retirement benefits and the
8 impact such alternatives would have on the citizenry, business and
9 industry, and local governments of this State.
- 10 (4) Any other issue deemed relevant to the study directive.

11 If this study is undertaken, the Commission shall report to the 2002 Regular
12 Session of the 2001 General Assembly on its findings and recommendations, including
13 legislative proposals, if appropriate.

14 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the General
15 Assembly the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the 2001-2002 fiscal year to
16 implement this act.

17 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.