

SENATE BILL No. 121

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 22-14-6.5; IC 36-8-12-5.

Synopsis: Volunteer firefighter allowances. Establishes the volunteer firefighter allowance fund as a dedicated fund for the purpose of reimbursing a city, town, or township in whole or in part for annual clothing and automobile allowances paid to active and participating members of a volunteer fire department. Increases the volunteer firefighter clothing and automobile allowance to \$400 per year.

Effective: July 1, 2019.

Tomes

January 3, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Local Government.



First Regular Session of the 121st General Assembly (2019)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2018 Regular and Special Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 121

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning public safety.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 22-14-6.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2019]:
4 **Chapter 6.5. Volunteer Firefighter Allowance Fund**
5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the volunteer**
6 **firefighter allowance fund established by section 4 of this chapter.**
7 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "member" means an active and**
8 **participating member of a volunteer fire department (as defined in**
9 **IC 36-8-12-2).**
10 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "unit" means a city, town, or**
11 **township.**
12 **Sec. 4. (a) The volunteer firefighter allowance fund is**
13 **established as a dedicated fund for the purpose of reimbursing a**
14 **unit in whole or in part for annual clothing and automobile**
15 **allowances paid to members under IC 36-8-12-5. Payment of**
16 **money from the fund is subject to availability of money in the fund.**
17 **(b) The department shall administer the fund.**



1 **Sec. 5. (a) The fund consists of the following:**

2 **(1) Amounts appropriated or transferred to the fund by the**
 3 **general assembly.**

4 **(2) Donations, gifts, bequests, and devises made to the fund.**

5 **(3) Any other amounts transferred to the fund by the**
 6 **department.**

7 **(b) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not**
 8 **currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same**
 9 **manner as other public funds may be invested.**

10 **(c) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not**
 11 **revert to the state general fund.**

12 **Sec. 6. (a) The department shall create an application and a**
 13 **procedure for approving and paying reimbursements.**

14 **(b) To receive reimbursement, a unit must submit an application**
 15 **for reimbursement to the department in the form required by the**
 16 **department. If the application is approved by the department, the**
 17 **department shall reimburse the unit with money from the fund.**

18 **Sec. 7. The department shall determine the amount of the**
 19 **reimbursement paid to a unit. However, the department may not**
 20 **reimburse a unit with more than a total of four hundred dollars**
 21 **(\$400) for each member's:**

22 **(1) clothing allowance; and**

23 **(2) automobile allowance;**

24 **for which the unit applies for reimbursement.**

25 **Sec. 8. The department may require a unit to submit additional**
 26 **information and documentation in order to complete an**
 27 **application.**

28 SECTION 2. IC 36-8-12-5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 29 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 5. (a) Unless otherwise
 30 provided by contract, a unit served by a volunteer fire department shall
 31 pay to each active and participating member of the department:

32 (1) a clothing allowance of not less than ~~one hundred dollars~~
 33 ~~(\$100)~~ **two hundred dollars (\$200)** per year; and

34 (2) an automobile allowance of not less than ~~one hundred dollars~~
 35 ~~(\$100)~~ **two hundred dollars (\$200)** per year for the use of the
 36 member's automobile in the line of duty.

37 (b) A contract may also provide that fees for membership in a
 38 regularly organized volunteer firefighters' association be paid by the
 39 unit on behalf of the firefighters in the volunteer fire department.

