



HOUSE BILL 666: Revise Volunteer Fire Department Req'ts.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee: Senate State and Local Government. If **Date:** June 20, 2017
favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of
the Senate

Introduced by: Reps. Brenden Jones, Saine

Prepared by: Jessica Sammons

Analysis of: First Edition

Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 666 would revise primary personnel requirements for volunteer firefighters. The act would be effective when it becomes law.*

CURRENT LAW: 11 NCAC 05A.0504 (Primary Personnel) provides: "Upon initial or re-inspection for certification as a Class '9S' fire department, the fire department shall have 20 primary personnel. No eligible firefighter may be counted as a primary firefighter of two, on call, volunteer departments. At the time of re-inspection, a fire department shall maintain 20 primary personnel on their certified state roster. At least one engine with four personnel must respond to each reported structure fire, which includes fire alarm activations where fire or damage has occurred. For the purpose of this Section 'primary personnel' means an eligible firefighter that is associated with the fire department for the purpose of satisfying certification inspection requirements."

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 666 would require the Department of Insurance to implement 11 NC 05A.0504 as follows. The Department must provide that to satisfy certification inspection requirements, a fire department may apply to the Department for a waiver from the requirement that the fire department maintain 20 primary personnel. The Department's Office of State Fire Marshall may find that a waiver is justified based on the volume of calls received by the fire department and if the waiver would not cause a significant deterioration in the response capability of the fire department. A waiver must not reduce the primary personnel requirement below 15. The act would also direct the Rules Review Commission to amend the Primary Personnel Rule consistent with these provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act would be effective when it becomes law.

Brad Krehely, Staff Attorney in the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.

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