



SENATE BILL 37: Roanoke Island Fire District Changes.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House State and Local Government I	Date:	May 9, 2017
Introduced by:	Sen. Cook	Prepared by:	Billy R. Godwin
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 37 would clarify the authority of the Dare County Board of Commissioners to pay, and the Roanoke Island Volunteer Fire Department (RIVFD) to receive, taxes collected from the Roanoke Island Fire District. The bill would be effective when it becomes law and would apply to taxes levied or collected after that date.*

[As introduced, this bill was identical to H45, as introduced by Rep. Boswell, which is currently in the Senate Committee on Rules and Operation of the Senate.]

CURRENT LAW: The Roanoke Island Fire District, consisting of all of Roanoke Island except the corporate limits of the Town of Manteo, was created in 1937 by S.L. 1937-246 to provide fire protection for the district funded by a district tax levied by the Dare County Board of Commissioners. Fire protection was originally provided by the Town of Manteo and it was authorized to receive the tax funds for use in providing and maintaining fire equipment and providing fire protection within the district.

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 37 amends S.L. 1937-246 to clarify that the Dare County Board of Commissioners is authorized to pay over to the RIVFD, or its successor, the proceeds of the district fire tax with the tax collected to be used exclusively for that purpose. The bill clarifies that the RIVFD, or its successor, is empowered to receive the funds which are to be used exclusively for providing and maintaining fire equipment and providing fire protection within the district. Firefighting equipment purchased by district tax funds is property of the district but under the custody and control of the RIVFD, or its successor. The bill requires the RIVFD, or its successor, to provide an annual accounting of the use and application of the funds to the Dare County Board of Commissioners.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill is effective when it becomes law and applies to taxes levied or collected after that date.

BACKGROUND: In 1974 the Manteo Fire Department and the Wanchese Fire Department merged to form the RIVFD.

Staff attorney Cindy Avrette substantially contributed to this bill summary.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578