



# SENATE BILL 37: Roanoke Island Fire District Changes.

2017-2018 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Finance. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b>	March 21, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sen. Cook	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Cindy Avrette
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

**OVERVIEW:** Senate Bill 37 clarifies 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.

*[As introduced, this bill was identical to H45, as introduced by Rep. Boswell, which is currently in House Finance.]*

**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.

*Billy Godwin, counsel to the Senate State and Local Government Committee, substantially contributed to this summary.*

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