



HOUSE BILL 120: Clarify Fire District Funding Eligibility.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	House Insurance. If favorable, re-refer to Finance. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	March 21, 2019
Introduced by:	Reps. Conrad, Howard, Lambeth, Szoka	Prepared by:	Kristen L. Harris
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H120-CSTUf-3		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute for House Bill 120 would require a fire department receiving taxpayer money for fire protection to meet minimum public protection requirements established by the Office of State Fire Marshall (OSFM).*

CURRENT LAW: Under G.S. 69-25.4, a majority of qualified voters voting in a district may vote in favor of levying and collecting a tax from year to year for the board of county commissioners to keep as a special and separate fund to be used only for furnishing fire protection in that district. Currently, there are no eligibility requirements imposed on fire departments to receive the money.

The Ratings and Inspections Division of the Office of State Fire Marshall (OSFM) of the Department of Insurance (DOI) inspects fire districts to ensure compliance with certain requirements to receive a public protection classification rating for fire protection. Specifically, the districts are rated on their ability to provide fire prevention and fire suppression services.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 would require a fire department to meet the minimum public protection requirements established by the OSFM in order to receive taxpayer money collected for fire protection.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act becomes effective July 1, 2019, and applies to taxes collected on or after that date.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578