



HOUSE BILL 278: Study Parity for First Responders.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	May 7, 2019
Introduced by:	Reps. Saine, Hardister, Lewis, Setzer	Prepared by:	Theresa Matula
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Committee Staff

OVERVIEW: *HB 278 would create the Joint Study Committee on Parity for First Responders consisting of five members of the House of Representatives and five members of the Senate who are required to study a special separation allowance for State and local firefighters and rescue squad workers and report on or before the convening of the 2020 Regular Session.*

[As introduced, this bill was identical to S179, as introduced by Sens. B. Jackson, Britt, McInnis, which is currently in Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate.]

BILL ANALYSIS: HB 278 would create the Joint Study Committee on Parity for First Responders (Committee) which will consist of five members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, with one member designated as co-chair, and five members of the Senate, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, with one member designated as co-chair.

The Committee is required to study a special separation allowance for State and local firefighters and rescue squad workers and is specifically charged with the following:

- (1) Work with the municipalities and the State Treasurer to determine the cost to each municipality for the cities and counties to provide a separation allowance to local firefighters and rescue squad workers with a plan implementation date of July 1, 2024.
- (2) Determine funds availability and current funding sources that could be used by the municipalities to provide a separation allowance.
- (3) Develop a funding mechanism to pay for a separation allowance on an actuarially sound basis.
- (4) Consider alternative benefit designs that would yield a benefit equivalent to a separation allowance, if applicable.
- (5) Explore other issues the Committee identifies that are related to the objectives of this study.

The Committee must submit a final report on the results of its study, including proposed legislation, to the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives on or before the convening of the 2020 Regular Session of the 2019 General Assembly, by filing a copy of the report with the Office of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Legislative Library. The Committee will terminate on May 15, 2020, or upon the filing of its final report, whichever occurs first.

EFFECTIVE DATE: HB 278 would become effective when it becomes law.

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