



# HOUSE BILL 666: Up Volunteer Firefighters' Retirement Benefit.

2021-2022 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	May 4, 2021
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Pickett, Saine, Clampitt	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Theresa Matula
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Committee Staff

**OVERVIEW:** House Bill 666 would amend the North Carolina Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund by increasing the monthly payments from \$10.00 to \$15.00 and increasing the monthly pension from \$170 to \$200.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 666 would amend the North Carolina Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund.

**Sections 1, 2 and 3** would require an increase from \$10.00 to \$15.00 per month for payments made to the NC Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund.

**Section 4** would increase the monthly pension from \$170.00 to \$200.00 per month for an eligible firefighter or eligible rescue squad worker who has served 20 years and is 55 years old.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This bill would become effective January 1, 2022 and apply to monthly payments due from, and monthly pension benefits owed to, members of the North Carolina Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund.

**CURRENT LAW:**

- **Eligible firefighter** (G.S. 58-86-2(5)) - means all persons 18 years of age or older who are firefighters of the State of North Carolina or any political subdivision thereof, including those performing such functions in the protection of life and property through firefighting within a county or city governmental unit. It also means an employee of a county whose sole duty is to act as fire marshal, deputy fire marshal, assistant fire marshal, or firefighter of the county, as well as those persons meeting other qualifications outlined in Article 86 of Chapter 58, not exceeding 25 volunteer firefighters plus one additional volunteer firefighter per 100 population in the area served by their respective departments.
- **Eligible rescue squad worker** (G.S. 58-86-2(7)) - means all persons 18 years of age or older who are members of a rescue or emergency medical services squad that is eligible for membership in the North Carolina Association of Rescue and Emergency Medical Services, Inc. It also includes those persons meeting other qualifications outlined in Article 86 of Chapter 58.
- **Determination and Certification** (G.S. 58-86-25 and G.S. 58-86-25) - Eligible firefighters and eligible rescue squad workers must attend 36 hours of training and a certified roster of those meeting eligibility requirements must be submitted.

**BACKGROUND: Monthly Pension:** Between 1997 and 2008, the monthly pension payable under the NC Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund increased from \$141 to \$170 and the increase to \$170 was provided in S.L. 2008-107. **Monthly Payment:** The monthly payment for members increased from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per month in S.L. 1995-507.

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