



HOUSE BILL 37: Enhance Firefighter Benefits & Representation.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Pensions and Retirement. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	March 12, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Howard, N. Jackson, Huneycutt, Scott	Prepared by:	Jason Moran-Bates
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Staff

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 37 would increase the pension benefit for eligible firefighters and rescue squad workers participating in the North Carolina Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund from \$175.00 to \$180.00 per month. The act also would add representation from the North Carolina State Firefighters' Association to the North Carolina Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council.*

CURRENT LAW AND BILL ANALYSIS:

Part I

Under current law, any member of the North Carolina Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund who has served for 20 years and has reached age 55 is eligible for a monthly pension of \$175.00. Part I would increase the pension benefit to \$180.00 per month. The remainder of Part I would make technical, conforming, and organizational changes only.

Part II

Under current law, the North Carolina Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (Council) may advise the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (Secretary) on policy issues regarding the Statewide Emergency Medical Services System. The Council consists of 25 members. 4 members are appointed by the General Assembly, two upon the recommendation of the Speaker and two upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The Secretary appoints 21 members, and 6 of those appointees represent the general public, EMS personnel and educators, local public health officials, and EMS interest groups.

Part II would provide that one of the Secretary's appointees to the Council would represent the North Carolina State Firefighters' Association. It also would reduce from 6 to 5 the Secretary's appointees representing the general public, EMS personnel and educators, local public health officials, and EMS interest groups.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Part I would become effective January 1, 2026. Part II would become effective when the bill becomes law.

***Brad Krehely of Legislative Analysis substantially contributed to this summary.*

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