

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1993**

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HOUSE BILL 482

Short Title: Fire/Rescue Commission Staff.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives DeVane; Bowman, Cummings, Nichols, and J. Preston.

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Referred to: Appropriations.

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March 24, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ALLOW THE FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION TO REIMBURSE MEMBERS OF ITS CERTIFICATION BOARD AND TO PROVIDE STAFF POSITIONS TO ADMINISTER FIRE AND RESCUE CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 58-78-5(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) To formally adopt a State Fire Education and Training Plan, a State Master Plan for Fire Prevention and Control, a Rescue Training Plan, and a State Master Plan for Rescue Services;
- (2) To assist and participate with State and local fire prevention and control agencies in the improvement of fire prevention and control in North Carolina and to work with State and local rescue agencies to improve rescue services in the State;
- (3) To increase the professional skills of fire protection and fire-fighting personnel and rescue personnel;
- (4) To encourage public support for fire prevention and control and rescue services;
- (5) To accept gifts, bequests, devises, grants, matching funds, and other considerations from private or governmental sources for use in promoting its work;
- (6) To make grants for use in pursuing its objectives, under such conditions as are deemed to be necessary and such other powers as

- 1                   may be necessary to carry out the State's duties with respect to all  
2                   grants to the State by the United States Fire Administration and the  
3                   National Fire Academy; and all support programs brought into the  
4                   State by these two entities shall be coordinated and controlled by the  
5                   Commission;
- 6           (7)    To make studies and recommendations for the improvement of fire  
7                   prevention and control and rescue services in the State and to make  
8                   studies and recommendations for the coordination and implementation  
9                   of effective fire prevention and control and rescue services and for  
10                  effective fire prevention and control and rescue services education;
- 11          (8)    To set objectives and priorities for the improvement of fire prevention  
12                  and control and rescue services throughout the State;
- 13          (9)    To advise State and local interests of opportunities for securing federal  
14                  assistance for fire prevention and control and rescue services and for  
15                  improving fire prevention and control and rescue services  
16                  administration and planning within the State of North Carolina;
- 17          (10)   To assist State agencies and institutions of local government and  
18                  combinations thereof in the preparation and processing of applications  
19                  for financial aid and to support fire prevention and control, rescue  
20                  services, and planning and administration;
- 21          (11)   To encourage and assist coordination at the federal, State and local  
22                  government levels in the preparation and implementation of fire  
23                  prevention and control and rescue services administrative  
24                  improvements and crime reduction plans;
- 25          (12)   To apply for, receive, disburse and audit the use of funds received  
26                  from any public and private agencies and instrumentalities for fire  
27                  prevention and control and rescue services, their administration and  
28                  plans therefor;
- 29          (13)   To enter into monitoring and evaluating the results of contracts and  
30                  agreements necessary or incidental to the discharge of its assigned  
31                  responsibilities;
- 32          (14)   To provide technical assistance to State and local fire prevention and  
33                  control and rescue agencies in developing programs for improvement;
- 34           (14a) To serve as a central office for the collection and dissemination  
35                  of information relative to fire service and rescue service  
36                  activities and programs in State government. All State  
37                  government agencies conducting fire service and rescue service  
38                  related programs and activities shall report the status of these  
39                  programs and activities to the Commission on a quarterly basis  
40                  and they shall also report to the Commission any new programs  
41                  or changes to existing programs as they are implemented;
- 42           (14b) To establish voluntary minimum professional qualifications for  
43                  all levels of fire service and rescue service personnel;

1 (14c) To prepare an annual report to the Governor on its fire prevention and  
2 control activities and plans, rescue activities and plans, and to  
3 recommend legislation concerning fire prevention and control and  
4 rescue services; ~~and~~

5 (14d) To reimburse the members of the Commission's certification board, in  
6 accordance with G.S. 138-5, for travel and subsistence expenses  
7 incurred by them in their duties as certification board officers; and

8 (15) To take such other actions as may be deemed necessary or appropriate  
9 to carry out its assigned duties and responsibilities."

10 Sec. 2. The North Carolina Fire and Rescue Commission is authorized four  
11 staff positions to administer fire and rescue certification programs. Of the four  
12 positions, three shall be field positions and one shall be clerical. The positions shall be  
13 funded by the Department of Insurance Fund and shall become part of the Commission's  
14 continuation budget.

15 Sec. 3. This act is effective upon ratification, except for Section 2 of this act  
16 which becomes effective July 1, 1993.