

2003 DRAFTING REQUEST

Senate Amendment (SA-SB44)

Received: **05/21/2003**

Received By: **rmarchan**

Wanted: **As time permits**

Identical to LRB:

For: **Legislative Fiscal Bureau**

By/Representing: **Renner**

This file may be shown to any legislator: **NO**

Drafter: **rmarchan**

May Contact:

Addl. Drafters:

Subject: **State Govt - miscellaneous**

Extra Copies:

Submit via email: **YES**

Requester's email:

Carbon copy (CC:) to: **robert.marchant@legis.state.wi.us**

Pre Topic:

LFB:.....Renner -

Topic:

Retain Volunteer Fire Fighter and EMT Service Award Program in DOA

Instructions:

Alternative 2. from LFB paper #118. Also, retain program in DOA.

Drafting History:

<u>Vers.</u>	<u>Drafted</u>	<u>Reviewed</u>	<u>Typed</u>	<u>Proofed</u>	<u>Submitted</u>	<u>Jacketed</u>	<u>Required</u>
/?	rmarchan 05/21/2003	kgilfoy 05/21/2003					
/1			jfrantze 05/21/2003		amentkow 05/21/2003		

FE Sent For:

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/?	rmarchan	1-5/21 kmg	7/5/21	7/5/21 J. Self			

FE Sent For:

<END>

Post-it* Fax Note	7671	Date	# of pages ▶ 3
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Phone #		Phone #	
Fax #	2-6948	Fax #	

266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873

May 20, 2003

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #118

Transfer Volunteer Firefighter Service Award Program to the Department of Commerce (DOA – Transfers from the Department to Other Agencies)

[LFB 2003-05 Budget Summary: Page 38, #3]

CURRENT LAW

The Volunteer Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Service Award Board (Board) is attached to the Department of Administration (DOA). The Board administers a service awards program that provides a cash benefit for volunteer firefighters and EMTs who have at least 10 years of service at retirement or who are killed in the line of duty. The Board contracts with qualified private individuals or organizations to provide investment plans and administrative services to municipalities that choose to participate in the service award program.

Any municipality that operates a volunteer fire department or contracts with a volunteer fire company and any municipality that authorizes volunteer EMTs to provide services are eligible to participate under the program. Municipalities contribute annual amounts toward the benefits directly to the plan provider, and the Board must match all such municipal contributions for current service, up to a maximum of \$257 per year per volunteer fire fighter or EMT. The amount of the state's contribution is subject to an annual adjustment for inflation.

The state's contribution is funded from a GPR sum sufficient appropriation that is subject to a statutory annual expenditure cap of \$2,000,000 GPR. State contribution amounts would be prorated, if the \$2,000,000 annual expenditure limit were exceeded. Annual base level expenditures under this appropriation are estimated at \$653,900 GPR. The Board's administrative costs are supported by a general program operations appropriation with base level funding of \$20,300 GPR annually. Staff support for the Board is provided by DOA's Division of Housing and Intergovernmental Relations.

GOVERNOR

Transfer the Board, the administrative responsibilities for the service award program and funding of \$674,200 GPR annually (\$653,900 GPR for awards and \$20,300 GPR for program support) to the Department of Commerce. The transfer would be effective 30 days after the publication of the bill.

Replace the Secretary of DOA with the Secretary of Commerce on the Volunteer Firefighter and EMT Service Award Board.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Currently, the Board has no authorized staff. The existing administrative appropriation of \$20,300 GPR annually provides LTE support associated with Board operations (\$5,400 GPR annually) and Board meeting expenses and DOA overhead charges (\$14,900 GPR). Currently, the LTE staff support is provided by temporary staff attached to the Division of Housing and Intergovernmental Relations, which would be transferred to the Department of Commerce under the bill.

2. The program is being transferred to Commerce to some extent because current LTE staff for the Board is part of the housing function that is being transferred from DOA. Temporary staff that had previously worked on mobile home regulation (a function that was also transferred to Commerce as part of 2001 Wisconsin Act 16) was reassigned to the Board. If this had not been the case, it is not clear that the Board would necessarily been proposed for transfer. Further, it could be argued that the Board is essentially an intergovernmental relations program. Consequently, the Board could equally well be staffed under the intergovernmental relations function that would remain in DOA and not be made subject to transfer to Commerce. Accordingly, the Committee could choose to retain the Board and associated appropriations under DOA.

3. However, one compelling rationale for the transfer of the Board to Commerce is that Commerce currently administers a fire department safety and health program and distributes annual fire dues payments to qualifying permanently staffed and volunteer fire departments. This Commerce unit, located in the agency's Environmental and Regulatory Services Division, has ongoing contact with fire departments in the state, including approximately 720 volunteer fire departments. This familiarity, and the fact that some fire departments already use a portion of their fire dues distributions to support firefighters pension and disability funds, suggests that the transfer would be desirable from the standpoint of merging the current DOA function with a comparable one under Commerce. The Committee could, therefore, approve the proposed transfer.

4. Whether or not the Committee chooses to transfer the program, it might also wish to consider whether the annual inflation adjustment applied to the amount of the state match should be retained or not. Currently, the annual amount of the state match is subject to an annual adjustment to reflect any changes during the preceding year in the federal Consumer Price Index (U. S. city average for all urban consumers). When the program was initiated, the annual state match was

\$250. Effective with 2003 grant payments, the state match was adjusted by the prior year's rate of inflation (2.8%) to \$257.

5. Given the state's scarce GPR resources and the fact that the current state award is funded from a sum sufficient appropriation (subject to an overall annual expenditure cap of \$2,000,000), the Committee could conclude that it would be desirable to eliminate the inflation adjustment provision. It could be argued that this action would be desirable in order to maximize the use of available state funds to pay as many matching grants as possible. Further, it is doubtful that the additional state amounts provided by the inflation adjustment provide any kind of meaningful incentive for additional volunteer fire departments to participate in the program. For these reasons, the Committee could choose to eliminate the annual inflation adjustment applied to the state's share and freeze the state's contribution rate at the current \$257 annually per volunteer firefighter or EMT.

6. However, it can also be argued that many municipalities that contract for volunteer firefighter and EMT protection have limited available resources with which to fund the municipalities' share of the award program costs. Consequently, the state's inflation-adjusted contribution amount is an important consideration in providing a meaningful award program for local volunteer protectives. For these reasons, the Committee could choose to retain the current law inflation adjustment provision.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to transfer the Volunteer Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician Service Award Board and funding of \$674,200 GPR annually to the Department of Commerce and to replace the Secretary of DOA with the Secretary of Commerce on the Board

> ② Delete provision transferring the Board and making Board membership changes.

> 3. In addition to Alternatives 1 or 2, delete the current law requirement that the Board annually adjust the amount of the state's match to reflect prior year changes in the federal Consumer Price Index (U. S. city average for all urban consumers) and establish the state's service award payment at \$257 annually.

Prepared by: Darin Renner

MO# 118 #2

1 Darling	X	N
2 Welch	X	N
Fitzgrid	X	N
Lazich	X	N
Harsdorf	X	N
Kanavas	X	N
Decker	Y	X
Moore	Y	X
Kaufert	X	N
Huebsch	X	N
Ward	X	N
Stone	X	N
Rhoades	X	N
Meyer	X	N
Coggs	Y	X
Schooff	Y	X

12-4

1 respect to such a matter are considered as having been submitted to or taken by the
2 department of commerce.

3 **SECTION 9401. Effective dates; administration.**

4 (1) TRANSFER OF HOUSING FUNCTIONS. The repeal of section 15.103 (2) of the
5 statutes; the renumbering of sections 16.30, 16.31, 16.336, 16.35, 16.375, 16.39 and
6 20.505 (7) (title) and subchapter II (title) of chapter 16 of the statutes; the
7 renumbering and amendment of sections 15.105 (26), 16.25, 16.33, 16.334, 16.339,
8 16.351, 16.352, 16.358, 16.385, 20.505 (4) (ec), 20.505 (4) (er), 20.505 (7) (a), 20.505
9 (7) (b), 20.505 (7) (c), 20.505 (7) (fm), 20.505 (7) (h), 20.505 (7) (k), 20.505 (7) (kg),
10 20.505 (7) (km), 20.505 (7) (m), 20.505 (7) (n) and 20.505 (7) (o) of the statutes; the
11 amendment of sections 13.099 (1) (a) and (b), 13.0999 (2) (a), 13.0999 (3) (a) 5., 13.94
12 (1) (q), 16.54 (2) (b), 16.705 (1m), 16.71 (5), 16.957 (3) (a), 23.15 (1), 46.215 (1) (n),
13 46.22 (1) (b) 4m. c., 46.22 (1) (b) 4m. d., 46.22 (1) (b) 4m. e., 50.01 (1g) (c), 51.35 (5),
14 84.09 (5), 84.09 (5r), 85.09 (4i), 114.33 (10), 134.80, 196.491 (2) (e), 224.71 (3) (b) 1m.,
15 224.71 (4) (b) 1m., 227.115 (1) (a) and (b), 227.115 (3) (a) 5., 234.034, 234.06 (1), 234.06
16 (3), 234.165 (2) (b) 2., 234.25 (1) (e), 560.045 (1), 704.05 (5) (a) 2., 961.01 (20g), and
17 977.01 (2) of the statutes; the creation of section 20.505 (1) (n) of the statutes; and
18 SECTION 9101 (1) of this act take effect on the 30th day beginning after publication.

****NOTE: This is reconciled SECTION 9401 (1). Changes to this SECTION were
necessitated by drafts with the following LRB numbers: LRB-1712/3, LRB-1289/6, and
LRB-1688/1.



State of Wisconsin
2003 - 2004 LEGISLATURE

LRBb024712 1
RJM:KMG
[Signature]

LFB:.....Renner – Retain volunteer fire fighter and EMT service award
program in DOA

FOR 2003-05 BUDGET — NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

**SENATE AMENDMENT ,
TO 2003 SENATE BILL 44**

1 At the locations indicated, amend the bill as follows:

2 ✓ **1.** Page 61, line 19: delete lines 19 to 24.

3 ✓ **2.** Page 74, line 1: delete lines 1 to 7.

4 ✓ **3.** Page 82, line 20: delete the material beginning with that line and ending
5 with page 83, line 23.

6 ✓ **4.** Page 110, line 17: delete lines 17 to 20.

7 ✓ **5.** Page 112, line 3: delete lines 3 to 6.

8 ✓ **6.** Page 398, line 14: delete the material beginning with that line and ending
9 with page 399, line 2.

10 ✓ **7.** Page 1126, line 23: delete “15.105 (26), 16.25.”.



State of Wisconsin
2003 - 2004 LEGISLATURE

LRBb0247/1
RJM:kmgjf

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