

**Department of Planning and Budget
2025 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement**

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB2494 **Patron:** Askew
Bill Title: Emergency Response Exposure Grant Fund and Program.

Bill Summary: Creates the Emergency Response Exposure Grant Fund and Program to award grants to localities to support certain emergency responders who were exposed to a qualifying emergency, defined in the bill. The bill requires funding to be used for annual cancer screenings and health care expenses incurred by eligible emergency responders, defined in the bill, in the event such emergency responders are diagnosed with cancer from toxic material exposure. The bill permits funding to be used for out-of-pocket medical expenses not otherwise covered by insurance, workers' compensation, or other available funding. The Department of Fire Programs shall administer the Fund and Program.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes

Items Impacted: Item 405

Explanation: According to the Department of Fire Programs (DFP), one additional full-time equivalent position and \$118,025 nongeneral fund annually is required.

Fiscal Summary: According to the Department of Fire Programs (DFP), one additional full-time equivalent position and \$118,025 nongeneral fund annually is required to support the provisions of the bill.

Nongeneral Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>
DFP		\$118,025	\$118,025	\$118,025	\$118,025	\$118,025
<i>TOTAL</i>		<i>\$118,025</i>	<i>\$118,025</i>	<i>\$118,025</i>	<i>\$118,025</i>	<i>\$118,025</i>

Position Impact:

Fiscal Analysis: According to DFP, the administration of a new grant program would require an additional full-time grants administrator position at a base salary of \$75,000 plus fringe and equipment costs at an estimated \$118,025 annually. As per the provisions in paragraph B. of the bill, a portion of the proposed fund would be eligible for use to implement and administer the grant program, therefore the position would be funded with revenues generated for the fund. The required position would be responsible for reviewing medical records and verifying bills and other records required to meet the grant requirements. Currently, DFP has two grants administrators managing five annual grants and one one-time grant. According to DFP, it is not feasible for the

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two existing grants administrators to manage the additional workload of a new grant program. Alternatively, DFP proposes that a third-party contractor could be engaged to oversee the proposed grant program. However, it is unclear the cost of such contractor.

The bill does not identify a source of revenue nor requires the appropriation of any source funds to the proposed Emergency Response Exposure Grant Fund, therefore unless the proposed fund is capitalized, there is no anticipated fiscal impact. Funding for the required positions or third-party contractor are not needed until a revenue source is identified or funds are appropriated to the proposed grant program.

Other: This bill is identical to SB972.