

HOUSE LABOR, VETERANS' AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL 345

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY; PROVIDING RECRUITMENT DISBURSEMENTS TO NEWLY HIRED FIREFIGHTERS; CREATING A FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT FUND; REQUIRING DISTRIBUTION AND OVERSIGHT OF THE FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT FUND BY THE HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT FUND--
CREATED--RECRUITMENT STIPEND DISBURSEMENT--REPORTING.--

A. The "firefighter recruitment fund" is created in the state treasury. The fund consists of money appropriated by the legislature, federal money granted to the state for the purposes of the fund, income from investment of the fund and money otherwise accruing to the fund. Money in the fund shall not revert to any other fund at the end of a fiscal year. The

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1 homeland security and emergency management department shall
2 administer the fund to provide:

3 (1) five-thousand-dollar (\$5,000) recruitment
4 disbursements for firefighters starting employment with a fire
5 department; provided that the recipient remains employed as a
6 firefighter with that fire department for three years; and

7 (2) support for disbursement administration
8 processes and reporting compliance.

9 B. The homeland security and emergency management
10 department shall adopt and promulgate rules as necessary to
11 implement the provisions of this section.

12 C. Money in the fund shall be disbursed on warrants
13 signed by the secretary of finance and administration pursuant
14 to vouchers signed by the secretary of homeland security and
15 emergency management or the secretary's authorized
16 representative.

17 D. The homeland security and emergency management
18 department shall determine and distribute annually to a fire
19 department the amount necessary to provide a recruitment
20 disbursement to firefighters newly employed by that fire
21 department. A fire department shall expend funding received
22 for no other purpose than that permitted by this section, and
23 any unexpended balance received by a fire department pursuant
24 to this section at the end of a fiscal year shall revert to the
25 firefighter recruitment fund. The homeland security and

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1 emergency management department shall monitor the use of
2 funding and ensure the proper reversions to the firefighter
3 recruitment fund.

4 E. To receive funding pursuant to Subsection D of
5 this section, a fire department shall make a request to the
6 homeland security and emergency management department prior to
7 June 1 of each fiscal year.

8 F. The homeland security and emergency management
9 department shall submit an annual report providing information
10 collected pursuant to the rules adopted in Subsection B of this
11 section to the governor and the legislative finance committee
12 no later than December of each year.

13 G. As used in this section:

14 (1) "fire department" means an organization of
15 a county or municipality that employs firefighters and is
16 entitled to distributions from the fire protection fund and is
17 capable of providing fire suppression and related activities;

18 (2) "firefighter" means a person who is a
19 full-time salaried public employee of a fire department, who
20 provides fire suppression services involved in controlling and
21 extinguishing fires and who is exposed to the dangers of heat,
22 flame, smoke and other products of combustion, explosion or
23 structural collapse; and

24 (3) "recruitment disbursement" means the
25 amount disbursed from the firefighter recruitment fund based on

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1 the new employment of a firefighter at a fire department but is
2 not considered salary for the purpose of calculating retirement
3 benefits.

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