

LFC Requester: _____

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2024 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO:

Analysis.nmlegis.gov

{Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF}

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Check all that apply:

Original Amendment _____
Correction _____ Substitute _____

Date 1/19/2024

Bill No: HB 88

Sponsor: C. Borrego; T. Lujan
Short Firefighter Recruitment
Title: Program

Agency Name
and Code LGD/DFA-341
Number: _____
Person Writing Stephen Weinkauf
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25		
	\$35,000.00	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25	FY26		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY24	FY25	FY26	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		139.5	139.5	279.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis:

House Bill 88 (HB88) appropriates a onetime nonrecurring appropriation from the general fund in the amount of \$35 million to the Local Government Division (LGD) of the Department of Finance and Administration for fiscal year 2025 through 2027 to recruit firefighters who are certified and licensed emergency medical technicians.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB88 appropriates \$35 million from the general fund for expenditure in fiscal year 2025 through 2027.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The bill allows DFA the authority to create criteria for distributing the funds to help Fire Departments recruit new firefighters and EMS technicians. The State has over 300 fire departments with over half of them operated by volunteers. There has been a sharp decline in staffing levels and individuals interested in volunteer firefighter positions and this fund would help convert those volunteer positions to full time positions. This fund would help establish fire departments in rural areas reducing the need for volunteers.

As of August 2023, there are 3,333 certified firefighters and 721 certified EMS responders working in municipal and county governments. HB88 would likely increase the number of these positions statewide by approximately 600-800 positions. Individual departments would be granted funding for full-time positions. Positions would be funded at 100% in year one, 50% in year two, and 25% in year three.

Increasing the number of certified firefighters and licensed EMS personnel throughout the state would decrease emergency response times and expand public safety services in rural areas.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

In combination with the Law Enforcement Funding appropriated to LGD during the last two legislative sessions, the proposed Correction Officer Recruitment Fund and this Firefighter

Recruitment Fund, an FTE is requested to develop application criteria, and administer grant awards, distribution of funds, and reporting processes. The total cost for DFA to establish an FTE to manage these funds is \$139,512 which includes salary, benefits, and equipment.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HB88 and SB21 are duplicates.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

AMENDMENTS