



153rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL: SENATE BILL NO. 325
SPONSOR: Senator Hoffner
DESCRIPTION: AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 16 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO FIRE PREVENTION.

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.
 - a. An individual who is serving as a member of a fire company or EMS company as a firefighter must obtain criminal history records no more than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act.
2. This Act expands criminal background check requirements for fire company and EMS company members and applicants, requires ongoing criminal history monitoring through the State Bureau of Identification (SBI) and the FBI Rap Back system, and assigns additional review, notification, and compliance responsibilities to the State Fire Prevention Commission (the "Commission").
3. The Commission anticipates additional administrative and operational duties as a result of this Act. It anticipates a need for additional personnel, as well as other information technology and operating costs, primarily to promulgate regulations, review criminal histories, monitor notifications, notify entities or individuals of disqualifications, conduct reviews, and handle appeals, and other duties to comply with the provisions of this Act. The Fiscal Year 2027 costs are estimated at \$105,856, and one-time costs are estimated at \$37,300 and are as follows:
 - a. Recurring Costs – \$105,856
 1. \$86,956 in the Fiscal Year 2027 Personnel Costs (9 months of funding), including OECs at 33.41%, for 1.0 FTE, Investigator III.
 2. \$1,580 for projected contractual service needs relating to the Department of Technology and Information SEUS (Secure End User Services) costs and the Department of Human Resources eSTAR timekeeping costs, and supplies and materials needs relating to the establishment of the new position.
 3. \$4,000 for projected annual licensing fees for case management software to track and manage notifications, disqualifications, reviews, appeals, investigations, etc.
 4. \$13,320 for projected Fiscal Year 2027 Fleet Services (9 months of funding) in monthly vehicle rates relating to the establishment of the new position.
 - b. One-Time Costs – \$37,300
 1. \$7,300 for computer and technology equipment, and office furniture startup costs for the new position.
 2. \$30,000 estimated for the initial setup costs to implement a new information technology system to comply with the provisions of this Act.
4. The Fiscal Year 2027 personnel costs and fleet services costs have been estimated for nine months of funding, with the annualization of the remaining three months incorporated into subsequent year estimates. Additionally, a 2% inflation factor has been included to account for projected increases in salaries, health insurance, and OECs.

5. The proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriations Act and the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 One-Time Supplemental Appropriations Act include appropriations of \$92,500 and \$37,300, respectively, and epilogue including the authorization of 1.0 FTE, to support the implementation costs associated with this Act. The expenditure of these funds shall be contingent upon the passage of this legislation.

Cost:

	<u>Operating/Recurring</u>	<u>One-Time</u>
Fiscal Year 2027:	\$105,856	\$37,300
Fiscal Year 2028:	\$141,600	
Fiscal Year 2029:	\$143,965	

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Office of the Controller General