

SF2634 - 0 - Hometown Heroes Act; Clarification

Chief Author: **Jeff Howe**
 Committee: **Judiciary And Public Safety Finance And Policy**
 Date Completed: **2/15/2022 3:53:28 PM**
 Agency: **Public Safety Dept**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)	Biennium			Biennium		
	Dollars in Thousands	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-			-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

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State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-			-
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
General Fund						
Expenditures	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers Out	-	3,676	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Total	-	3,676	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Biennial Total			7,676			8,000
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
General Fund	-	3,676	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Total	-	3,676	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Biennial Total			7,676			8,000

Bill Description

Fire Marshal

The Hometown Heroes Assistance Program was established during the 2021 legislative session to fund critical illness coverage to provide monetary support to firefighters diagnosed with a critical illness, develop a psychotherapy program customized to address emotional trauma experienced by firefighters, coordinate additional psychotherapy sessions for firefighters, develop/update/provide annual training to firefighters on critical illness such as cancer, heart disease and emotional trauma and provide for administrative and overhead costs for the program.

SF 2634 provides language to clarify participation in Hometown Heroes Act and transferring money to amend Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 11, article 2 section 12.

SF 2634 transfers the Hometown Heroes Assistance Program from the Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs to the State Fire Marshall's Office and expands eligibility for the program.

Office of Justice Program(OJP)

Assumptions

Fire Marshal

That as long as the Hometown Heroes Assistance Program is in place, the State Fire Marshal Division (SFMD) will be the fiscal agent to distribute funds to the Minnesota Firefighter Initiative.

Office of Justice Program(OJP)

DPS-OJP assumes that the bill will transfer any remaining amounts from the state fiscal year 2022 appropriation to the State Fire Marshal's office for grants to the Minnesota Firefighter Initiative to fund the Hometown Heroes Assistance

Program. The amount listed on page 1 is an estimate of what will be remaining to transfer

FY2022 Transfer out and Transfer in Amounts are the unexpended appropriation as of 2/11/2022

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Fire Marshal

The funds would be appropriated to the Commissioner of Public Safety and allocated to the State Fire Marshal Division. SFMD would grant out the funds to the Minnesota Firefighter Initiative to support these activities. Administrative costs for this initiative will be absorbed by the agency. MnFIRE will have administrative costs of their own which are included in the total budget for the program (see below).

The total budget for the Hometown Heroes program is \$4.0 million. These funds are budgeted as follows:

- \$2.2 million to statewide critical care insurance (cardiac and cancer)
- \$1.2 million to statewide MnFIRE Employee Assistance Program (MAP) which includes 5 EAP visits per firefighter
- \$200,000 statewide provider training to ensure they are familiar with firefighter specific mental health concerns
- \$200,000 MnFIRE training for fire departments statewide including awareness training and deeper dives into cardiac, cancer and mental trauma.
- \$200,000 to MnFIRE to administer all aspects of the program including training, coordination of critical care insurance and MAP, connecting with providers for firefighter mental health concerns, and administer fire department training.

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

Fire Marshal

If funds become unavailable in the future, SFMD would not be able to support this program.

Local Fiscal Impact

References/Sources

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