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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6984

BILL NUMBER: HB 1205

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 16, 2009

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Injured Volunteer Firefighters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Bischoff

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: GENERAL
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that the state, a political subdivision, or a private employer may not discipline an employee who is a member of a volunteer fire department and who is injured or absent from work because of an injury that occurs while the employee is engaged in emergency firefighting or emergency response activities.

The bill provides that the employer may require the injured employee to provide evidence from a physician or other medical authority showing: (1) treatment for the injury at the time of the absence; and (2) a connection between the injury and the employee's emergency firefighting or emergency response activities. It requires the employer, to the extent required by federal or state law, to retain information about the injury in a separate medical file and to treat the information as a confidential medical record.

The bill allows an injured employee to use sick leave when the employee is absent from work because of an injury that occurs while the employee is engaged in emergency firefighting or emergency response activities.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The impact on the state would be as an employer of a member of a volunteer fire department and who is injured or absent from work because of an injury that occurs while the employee is engaged in emergency firefighting or emergency response activities. The state would not be able to discipline the employee for the time absent. The impact is probably minor.

Background: There are about 837 volunteer fire/rescue departments in Indiana with about 20,000 volunteers.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: See *Explanation of State Expenditures*. The impact on local units would be as employers.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association, www.ivfa.org.

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