

Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

One Baldwin Street • Montpelier, VT 05633-5701 • (802) 828-2295 • Fax: (802) 828-2483

FISCAL BRIEF

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Prepared by: Nolan Langweil

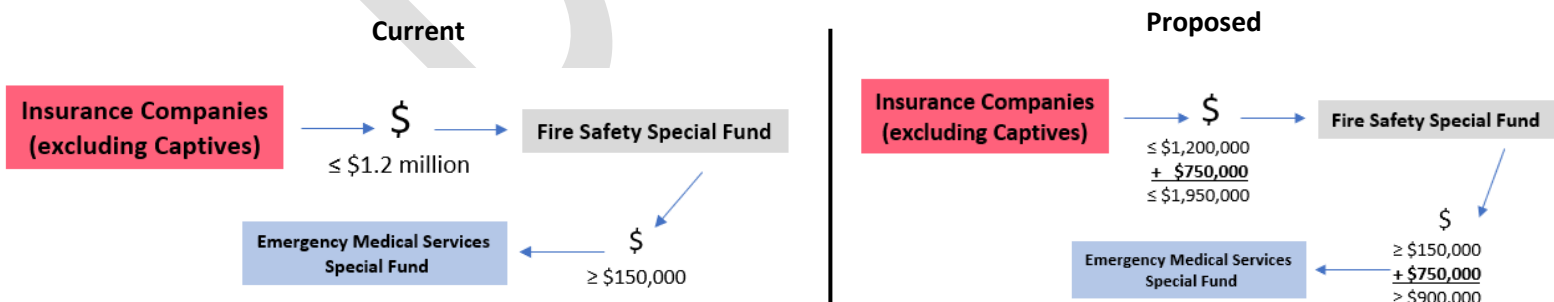
DRAFT

H.742 An act relating to grants for emergency medical personnel training – As Introduced

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2020/H.742>

The bill proposes to appropriate \$750,000.00 in FY 2021 and up to the same amount annually to the Department of Health (VDH) to provide grants to emergency medical technician and paramedic training programs. It would generate the revenue needed for the grants by increasing the amount of the assessment on insurance companies for the Fire Safety Special Fund.

Currently insurance companies that write fire, homeowner, allied, farmers, commercial, auto, and marine policies on persons and property situated in Vermont pay an assessment to the state.¹ The money is deposited into the *Fire Safety Special Fund* for expenses of the operation of training facilities and curriculum of the Vermont Fire Service Training Council (not to exceed \$1.2 million).² The fund also consists of monies received from tuitions, contributions, grants and other funds received by the Vermont Fire Services Training Council.³ An amount not less than \$150,000 is then allocated to the *Emergency Medical Services Fund*.⁴ This fund supports online and regional training of emergency medical personnel and delivery of emergency medical services and ambulances services in Vermont.⁵ H.742 would increase the amount of money for training emergency medical personnel by as much as \$750,000 to not less than \$900,000.



¹ Current law excludes captive companies.

² 32 V.S.A. § 8557

³ 20 V.S.A. § 3157

⁴ 32 V.S.A. § 8557(a)(4)

⁵ 18 V.S.A. § 908

Under the bill:

- \$375,000.00 (50%) would be used for competitive grants to emergency medical technicians (EMTs) training programs;
- \$187,500.00 (25%) would be used to support online, distance-learning EMT training opportunities developed by VDH and to support partnerships with regional ambulance services to provide practical education and skill development;
- \$187,500.00 (25%) would be used to provide tuition reimbursement grants to newly licensed paramedics serving Vermont communities.

According to information provided by the Department of Financial Regulations, approximately 274 companies from all over the country currently pay the assessment. Four of these companies are domiciled in Vermont and account for approximately 12.8% of the total revenue, the majority of which is paid by two companies – Co-Operative Insurance Companies (Middlebury) and Vermont Mutual Insurance Company (Montpelier). Currently, the assessment represents roughly 0.2% of applicable premium. It is anticipated that the proposed increase would increase the assessment by 62% and represent an increase of less than 0.1% of premium.

Finally, the assessment is collected by the Tax Department and due by the end of the calendar year.

Revenue History of 32 V.S.A. § 8557 - 2007 to Present

*Vermont Fire Services Training Council &
Vermont Emergency Medical Services Special Fund*

Year	Revenue Increases	Act #	Bill
2007	Increase from \$400,000 to \$600,000	190	Misc. Tax
2008	Increase to \$800,000	42	Misc. Tax
2011	Increase to \$950,000 Added allocation to EMS Special Fund (not less than \$150,000)	143	Misc. Tax
2016	Increase to \$1,200,000	134	Misc. Tax
2019	Tax Dept. to collect assessment	51	Misc. Tax

Fiscal Impact:

- Revenues = \$750,000.00
- Increased expenditures = \$750,000.00

Note:

The Senate Committee on Government Operation recently added language to S.243 – An act relating to establishing the Emergency Service Provider Wellness Commission – that is identical to language in H.742 increasing the revenues and expenditures by \$750,000.00 for grants to EMT and paramedic training programs.