

LFC Requester:	Brendon Gray
-----------------------	---------------------

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO

AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.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}

Date Prepared: 1/22/25 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SB 15 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor:	Elizabeth "Liza" Stefanics, Doreen Y. Gallegos, Harlan Vincent, Pat Woods, Gail Armstrong	Agency Name and Code	New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management-79500
	Short Title: Volunteer EMS & Firefighter Tax Credits	Number:	Management-79500
		Person Writing	Matthew Stackpole
		Phone: 505-699-5807	Email: Matthew.stackpole@dhsem.nm.gov

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
\$0	\$0	NA	NA

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	NA

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Recurring	

(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:

SB 15 introduces two new income tax credits for eligible volunteers: (1) the Volunteer Emergency Medical Services Income Tax Credit, provides a \$1,000 annual tax credit for licensed emergency medical services volunteers who participate in at least 52 documented volunteer activities per year with a certified emergency medical services agency in New Mexico. The other, (2) the Volunteer Firefighter Income Tax Credit, provides a \$1,000 annual tax credit for active, unpaid volunteer firefighters who participate in at least 52 documented volunteer activities per year with a fire department under the oversight of the State Fire Marshal's office.

The act includes a sunset provision effective January 1, 2035, and specifies reporting requirements for eligibility certification by the EMS Bureau and State Fire Marshal's Office. Notably for the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO), SB 15 notes that the SFMO, "shall issue to the taxpayer a dated certificate of eligibility providing the amount of the tax credit for which the taxpayer is eligible and the taxable year in which the credit may be claimed."

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The fiscal impact on state revenue will depend on participation rates, capped annually at \$4,000,000. While DHSEM does not directly oversee these tax credits, there may be indirect, yet significant administrative implication to the SFMO since both coordination and records retention and certification is required for a successful enactment.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

While the SFMO is in strong support of tax credits and other enhancements to encourage both retention and recruitment of our volunteer firefighters, the SFMO is concerned that currently, there is not an existing administrative infrastructure to support a successful implementation of the Volunteer Firefighter Income Tax Credit.

Additionally, there is no statutory or administrative framework in place that enables the SFMO to monitor individual volunteer firefighter activities. Meanwhile SB 15 implicitly requires the tracking and official certification of these activities as necessary to determine official eligibility for the tax credit.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

See above.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Please see above. The SFMO is additionally concerned that since there is no administrative framework in place to support tracking and certification of volunteer firefighters, the Office will

be placed in the position where new staff will need to be utilized, and current workload expanded, whilst maintaining the same budgetary resources. Likely, a new program will need to be created in order to ensure timely compliance and accurate certification of qualifying activities (totaling to at least 52, per year, per individual) in order to

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

NA

TECHNICAL ISSUES

It is unclear how the SFMO could successfully implement SB 15 without either budgetary or administrative support, along with preexisting statutory authority to review qualifying activities.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Please see above.

ALTERNATIVES

NA

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

It appears SB 15 might be capable of being implemented whilst not loading additional administrative or programmatic responsibilities onto the SFMO.

AMENDMENTS