



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Office of Audits and Investigations

February 7, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert J. Williams, Jr.
Council Administrator

William M. Hunt
Deputy Council Administrator

THRU: David H. Van Dyke *DHV*
County Auditor

FROM: Inez N. Claggett *INC*
Senior Legislative Auditor

RE: Fiscal Impact Statement
CB-003-2017 Volunteer Firefighters

Pursuant to your request, we have reviewed CB-003-2017 to estimate its fiscal impact on Prince George's County, Maryland.

CB-003-2017 seeks to amend the Prince George's County Code (the Code) to provide for a medical presumption of occupational disease for volunteer firefighters.

The proposed legislation removes the line of duty burden of proof for certain conditions, or impairments of health, suffered by eligible volunteer fire department or rescue squad members which would qualify them, or their dependents, for certain disability benefits. Should a volunteer firefighter or rescue squad member be diagnosed with a disability caused by lung disease, heart disease, hypertension, leukemia, prostate cancer, rectal cancer, throat cancer, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, brain cancer, testicular cancer, or breast cancer, that individual, will be presumed to have a service-connected disability and will become eligible to receive disability benefits as outlined in the proposed Bill.

The Volunteer Fire Commission informed us that there are approximately 1,000 active volunteer firefighters, and approximately 750 administrative and auxiliary volunteer members (10% of which are senior firefighters).

Allowing a presumption of a service-connected disability to be applied to certain conditions, or impairments of health that are commonly reoccurring conditions or impairments, will increase the County's financial burden for the payout of disability benefits. However, due to the many

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environmental or occupational factors which could cause an eligible volunteer fire department or rescue squad member to suffer a condition, or impairment of health which would be considered a service-connected disability, as defined within the proposed legislation, we are unable to determine the Bill's approximate fiscal impact on the County. Given the amount of the disability benefits related to the proposed presumption of service-connected disabilities, any benefits paid as a result should not have a significant negative fiscal impact on the County.

If you require additional information, or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please call me.