



*Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note*  
**NO FISCAL IMPACT**

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**Drafting Number:** LLS 07-0045**Date:** January 9, 2007**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Taylor  
Rep. Witwer**Bill Status:** Senate Business Labor & Technology  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Chris Ward (303-866-5834)

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**TITLE:** CONCERNING THE QUALIFICATION AS A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER FOR PURPOSES OF A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER PENSION PLAN.

### Summary of Assessment

The Volunteer Firefighter Pension Act offers benefits to firefighters who do not receive regular compensation for their firefighting services. This bill expands the types of payments that firefighters may receive for their services and still be considered volunteers for purposes of pension eligibility under the act. It takes effect upon signature of the Governor. The bill was recommended by the Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension Reform Commission during the 2006 interim.

Under current law, volunteer firefighters may be reimbursed for expenses and salary lost as a result of firefighting duties that caused an absence from their normal employment and still be eligible for volunteer firefighter pension benefits. The bill adds the following exceptions to the definition of "compensation":

- benefits received from the volunteer firefighter pension fund;
- benefits received upon termination of volunteer services provided as part of a qualified volunteer length of service award plan;
- payments of federal monies for participation in temporary emergency incidents; and
- nominal fees or benefits paid on a per-call basis or as part of a merit award program.

The bill clarifies the eligibility requirements for volunteer firefighter pension benefits but will not significantly affect the payment of benefits. Therefore, it is assessed as having no fiscal impact. Volunteer firefighter pension benefits are administered through the Fire and Police Pension Association of Colorado, a statutory public entity.

### Departments and Entities Contacted

Local Affairs

Fire and Police Pension Association