



FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 323

Committee: County and Municipal
Government

Sponsor: Representative Phillip Pettus

Analyst: Peter Grogan

Date: 05/02/2023

House Bill 323 as introduced would require: 1) each municipality to pay an annual premium into a fund established by the Alabama League of Municipalities (League) for the reimbursement of certain out-of-pocket expenses for the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) for certain first responders; 2) the Secretary of the Department of Labor (DOL) to regulate the fund; 3) the League to establish annual premiums and reimburse claims, up to a maximum of \$15,000 for the life of a claimant; and 4) municipalities to provide an additional 80 hours of paid leave, to each first responder, per claim. These provisions would increase the obligations of municipalities by an undetermined amount dependent upon: 1) the amount of annual premiums assessed for each first responder employed by the municipality; and 2) the amount of paid leave provided to first responders that file a claim pursuant to this bill.

This bill would also increase the administrative obligations of DOL to regulate and adopt rules for the operation of the fund.

In addition, this bill could increase the obligations of volunteer fire departments, regional associations of volunteer fire departments, municipalities, or any combination that elect to pay all or part of a volunteer firefighter's annual premium by an undetermined amount dependent on the amount of these premiums. This bill further provides that a volunteer firefighter may elect to participate at his or her own expense.

In addition, this bill could decrease potential receipts to the Education Trust Fund by an undetermined amount dependent on the amount of out-of-pocket reimbursements paid to a first responder, which would be exempt from state income tax pursuant to this bill.



This bill could also decrease potential revenues to the State General Fund by an undetermined amount dependent on the amount of premiums exempt from insurance premium taxes for coverage provided by this bill.