

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Criminal Justice

BILL: SB 1580

INTRODUCER: Senator Legg

SUBJECT: First Responders

DATE: February 5, 2016

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Sumner	Cannon	CJ	Favorable
2.			ACJ	
3.			AP	

I. Summary:

SB 1580 requires state agencies to provide a voluntary first responder career development plan for law enforcement officers, correctional officers, correctional probation officers, and firefighters. The plan will provide salary increases to those officers and firefighters in good standing who achieve and maintain specified levels of achievement determined by the agency. Each agency's plan will identify the activities approved to attain the levels. Each level achieved must be documented by specific achievements and completion of a specified number of years of service.

II. Present Situation:

Section 943.22, F.S., and s. 633.422, F.S., provide salary incentive increases for law enforcement officers and firefighters who successfully complete and are awarded an Associate Degree or a Bachelor Degree. The increases or supplements are as follows:

- \$30 per month for law enforcement officers with an Associate Degree;
- \$50 per month for law enforcement officers with a Bachelors Degree;
- \$50 per month for firefighters with an Associate Degree; and
- \$110 per month for firefighters with a Bachelors Degree.

Law enforcement officers can also receive incentive increases for additional approved training classes up to \$130 per month.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill requires state agencies to provide a voluntary first responder career development plan for law enforcement officers, correctional officers, correctional probation officers, and firefighters. The plan will provide salary increases to those officers and firefighters in good standing who achieve and maintain specified levels of achievement determined by the agency.

Each agency's plan will identify the activities approved to attain the levels. Each level achieved must be documented by specific achievements and completion of a specified number of years of service.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2016.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

According to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), a career development plan based on first responder skill specialization would most likely result in the establishment of a lead, master, or senior officer rank. If these levels are defined and a 5 percent pay increase is associated with each, assuming a required time in service of 5 years for all non-supervisory sworn positions (186 sworn positions meet this initial criterion), the plan could have a recurring fiscal impact of over \$700,000 if all reach a single level of achievement.

The Department of Financial Services states persons affected by the bill would be 103 sworn law enforcement personnel and 61 certified firefighters employed by the Division of State Marshal and 153 sworn law enforcement personnel employed by the Division of Insurance Fraud.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

According to FDLE, a first responder is an employee of an emergency service agency who is likely to be among the first people to arrive and assist at an emergency scene (generally

municipal and county law enforcement officers). FDLE states that except in rare incidences, FDLE is not a first responder.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 110.2035 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.