

HOUSE BILL 889
By Goins

AN ACT relative to volunteer fire departments. This act makes appropriations to volunteer fire departments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. There is created a fund within the general fund for the sole purpose of assisting volunteer fire departments in their invaluable work in protecting the lives and property of Tennessee citizens.

SECTION 2. (a) The fund shall be administered by the commissioner of finance and administration in accordance with the provisions of this act. The cost of administering this fund shall be borne by the department of finance and administration out of its administrative budget.

(b) Any fund balance remaining unexpended at the end of a fiscal year in the fund shall be carried forward into the subsequent fiscal year.

(c) Interest accruing on investments and deposits of the fund shall be carried forward into the subsequent fiscal year.

(d) Moneys in the fund shall be invested by the state treasurer in accordance with the provisions of § 9-4-603.

(e) The fund shall have an initial appropriation of two million dollars (\$2,000,000).

SECTION 3. Applications shall be made to the commissioner of finance and administration for grants to volunteer fire departments. No grant shall be more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000). No volunteer fire department may receive more than one (1) grant in each fiscal year of the state of Tennessee. Only volunteer fire departments which have been in

existence for more than three (3) years are eligible for grants. Grants shall be for equipment, maintenance, and other capital expenditures. All applications shall be reviewed in order of their receipt by the department.

SECTION 4. The department shall have the authority to promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to title 4, chapter 5, to implement the provisions of this act.

SECTION 5. The provisions of this act shall be invalid unless funds are appropriated to implement the provisions of this act in the general appropriations act.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.