



# North Carolina Fire Service Legislative Day

**Support NC Firefighters  
We are 53,000 Strong**



Support SB 349, Protecting  
Benefits for Firefighters Act

Support SB 416,  
Recruit/Retain Volunteer  
Firefighters

Support HB 159 and SB 396,  
Search and Rescue Funds

Support HB 278 Study Parity  
for First Responders

See enclosed for  
full listing of  
Support Actions  
and Bill Numbers

NCSFA/NCAFC Legislative  
Committee

3101 Industrial Drive, Suite  
200  
Raleigh, NC 27609

[www.ncsfa.com](http://www.ncsfa.com)

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# NC Fire Service Legislative Day 2019





## 2019 Legislative Day - Support NC Firefighters

Please support the North Carolina State Firefighters' Association and NC Association of Fire Chief's Membership. We represent over 53,000 career and volunteer firefighters/ chief officers statewide.

### **Support** [Senate Bill 349 - Protect Benefits for Firefighters Act](#)

This bill increases the Gross Premium Assessment on Fire and Lightning Insurance from .074 to .125. This will provide incremental increases in the Firefighter's Relief Fund, Volunteer Safety Workers Compensation fund, and Volunteer Fire Department Grants, returning each to their 2013 funding level. Most importantly, it will provide necessary increases to offset General Fund Appropriations that support stabilization in our Fire and Rescue Workers Pension fund.

### **Support** [SB 416 - Recruit/Retain Volunteer Firefighters](#)

This bill provides a loan forgiveness program for firefighters taking degree work in Fire Protection at the Department of Community Colleges; provides free hunting and fishing licenses for being a volunteer firefighter; a reduced property tax to eligible volunteer firefighters; and increases the Fire and Rescue Pension to \$180 for fire and rescue personnel.

### **Support** [HB 159 and Senate Bill 396 – Search and Rescue Funds](#) – Provides funding for NC Search and Rescue Teams through the Department Public Safety. This is currently included in the House Budget.

### **Support** [Senate Bill 179 and House Bill 278 - Parity for First Responders](#)

This bill provides a committee of combined Senate and House members to study firefighters in the State and Local Government Retirement System, possibly allowing them to retire at age 50 with 30 years' service. The study considers providing a supplement until they reach the age, they are eligible for unreduced social security benefits, and how to fund the provision. Law enforcement officers have had this benefit since the 1980's. The supplement allows a firefighter to afford retirement until they can receive social security benefits.

### **Support** [House Bill 466 - Firefighters' Line of Duty Diseases/Funds](#)

This bill adds 3 additional types of cancers bringing the total covered for Line of Duty Death to seven (7). It also appropriates funds for the additional LODD's. This is currently included in the House Budget version.



**Support** [HB 622 – Provide Workers Comp for PTS in First Responders](#) – Provides Workers Compensation for PTS in firefighters within 1 year of occurrence for certain types of exposures.



**Support** [HB 520 - Firefighters Fighting Cancer Act](#) – Creates a presumption that for certain type cancers prevalent in the fire service, that they are work related and covered by Workers Compensation.



**Support** [House Bill 213 Provide Equal Income Tax Treatment of Government Retirees' Benefits](#) - This bill creates an equal treatment of Government employees in North Carolina by phasing in the same income tax exemptions that State and Local Employees that were vested before 1989 received. Sometimes referred to as the Bailey Act, State and Local employees who were vested after 1989 do not receive the same state income tax relief, and this bill balances a phase in of those benefits based on your retirement vested date. This is a huge benefit for our career state and local firefighters, as well as any state, local, or military employee in NC.

### The NCSFA and NCAFC's opposes the following bills and issues:



**Oppose** [HB 615 and SB 566 – NC Consumers Fireworks Safety Act](#) – Increases the size, use and availability of consumer fireworks in NC, and will result in increased injuries and fires across NC.



**Oppose** [SB 374 – Repeal Risky Retirement Payments](#) - This bill will close three of the current benefit payment options to members who retire after July 1, 2020. The payment options being closed are: Option 4: Social Security Leveling; Option 6-2: Modified Joint & Survivor – 100% for named beneficiary with pop-up to maximum allowance if beneficiary predeceases the member; and Option 6-3: Modified Joint & Survivor – 50% for named beneficiary with pop-up to maximum allowance if beneficiary predeceases the member.

**Thank you for your support of firefighters!** If you have questions, concerns or need assistance from the NC State Firefighters' Association or the NC Association of Fire Chiefs, please feel free to contact our Raleigh representatives for the fire service.

Your Contact:

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Debbie Clary  
NC Strategy Partners  
2624 Laurelcherry Street  
Raleigh, NC 27602  
704.277.3424

Tim Bradley  
Exec. Director NCSFA  
3101 Industrial Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
919-821-2132