

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**

**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 81ST LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**March 23, 2009**

**TO:** Honorable Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles, Chair, House Committee on Agriculture & Livestock

**FROM:** John S. O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB2914** by McReynolds (Relating to the establishment of a fuel mitigation pilot grant program for fire departments.), **As Introduced**

Under the provisions of the bill, funds from the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Insurance Fund could be appropriated to implement the provisions of the bill.

The bill would require the Texas Forest Service to administer a pilot program to provide grants to fire departments to assist with the costs of fuel mitigation. The Forest Service would be allowed to solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations from private and public sources. Funds from General Revenue Dedicated Account 5066, Rural Volunteer Fire Department Insurance Fund, could also be appropriated for this program.

The Rural Volunteer Fire Department Insurance Fund is funded through a tax on firework sales and the Comptroller of Public Account's Biennial Revenue Estimate contains an estimated collection of approximately \$1,200,000 each year during the 2010-11 biennium. The Forest Service would be required to submit a report to the legislature on the effectiveness of the pilot program by December 1, 2010.

**Local Government Impact**

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 576 Texas Forest Service

**LBB Staff:** JOB, WK, RT, SK