

**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.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Community Affairs Committee

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BILL: SB 698

INTRODUCER: Senators Wise and Gibson

SUBJECT: Public Retirement Plans

DATE: January 12, 2011

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Anderson	Yeatman	CA	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
2.			GO	
3.			BC	
4.				
5.				
6.				

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**I. Summary:**

This bill provides that a consolidated government that has entered into an interlocal agreement to provide police protection services to another incorporated municipality, in its entirety, is eligible to receive the premium taxes reported for the other municipality under certain circumstances. The bill also authorizes the municipality receiving the police protection services to enact an ordinance levying the premium tax as provided by law.

This bill substantially amends s. 185.03 of the Florida Statutes.

**II. Present Situation:**

**State Excise Tax on Casualty Insurance Premiums**

Chapter 185, F.S., provides funding for municipal police officers' pension plans. It provides for a "uniform retirement system" with defined benefit retirement plans for municipal police officers and sets standards for the operation and funding of these pension systems.<sup>1</sup> Each municipality with a municipal police officers' retirement trust fund is authorized to assess an excise tax of .85 percent of the gross amount of receipts of premiums from policyholders on casualty insurance policies covering property within its corporate limits.<sup>2</sup> Revenues from this excise tax are one of the funding sources for police officers' pension plans. Currently, a municipality is eligible to receive state premium taxes (or excise taxes) only on those premiums for casualty

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<sup>1</sup> Section 185.01, F.S.

<sup>2</sup> Section 185.08, F.S.

insurance policies covering property within its municipal limits even if providing police protection services outside of its municipal limits.<sup>3</sup>

In order to qualify for the premium taxes, a police officers' pension plan must meet certain requirements in ch. 185, F.S.<sup>4</sup> The Department of Management Services (DMS) oversees and monitors these pension plans; however, day-to-day operational control rests with local boards of trustees.<sup>5</sup> Any premium taxes collected by and distributed to a municipality for funding police officers' pension plans have a negative impact on the General Revenue Fund because those premium taxes paid by an insurance company under ch. 185, F.S., to a municipality are allowed as a credit against premium taxes the insurance company must pay to the state under s. 624.509, F.S.

Under current law, a municipality may receive another municipality's premium tax revenues when there is an interlocal agreement in place to provide fire protection services.<sup>6</sup> The municipality receiving fire services must levy the tax authorized by ch. 175, F.S., and copies of the interlocal agreement and the municipal ordinance levying the tax must be provided to the Division of Retirement within DMS.

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

**Section 1** adds subsection (4) to section 185.03, F.S., which provides that a single consolidated government consisting of a former county and one or more municipalities, consolidated pursuant to s. 3 or s. 6(e), Art. VIII of the State Constitution, would be eligible to participate with respect to the distribution of premium taxes. The consolidated government must notify the Division of Retirement of the Department of Management Services (division) when it has entered into an interlocal agreement to provide police services to a municipality within its boundaries. The municipality may enact an ordinance levying the tax as provided in s. 185.08, F.S. Upon being provided copies of the interlocal agreement and the municipal ordinance levying the tax, the division shall distribute any premium taxes reported for the municipality to the consolidated government as long as the interlocal agreement is in effect.

The provisions of this chapter shall apply only to municipalities organized and established pursuant to the laws of the state, and said provisions shall not apply to the unincorporated areas of any county or counties nor shall the provisions apply to any governmental entity whose police officers are eligible to participate in the Florida Retirement System.

**Section 2** provides an effective date of July 1, 2012.

### IV. Constitutional Issues:

#### A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

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<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *See* ss. 185.10, 185.085, F.S.

<sup>5</sup> Section 185.05, F.S.

<sup>6</sup> Section 175.041, F.S.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

The Department of Revenue (DOR) would be notified by the Division of Retirement (within the Department of Management Services) of additional taxing jurisdiction as a result of the language of this bill. DOR would need to add those jurisdictions to the insurance premium tax form in the annual form process. The form would be adopted in a rule in the annual form adoption process. Additionally, this would require changes to the Insurance Premium Database to provide situs of premiums for allocation purposes.<sup>7</sup>

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

This bill will have a negative impact on the General Revenue Funds because state premium taxes paid by a casualty insurer to fund a municipal police officers' retirement plan are counted as a credit against the premium taxes paid to the state by the insurance company. The fiscal impact is indeterminate, but likely minimal.<sup>8</sup>

Under this bill, an eligible police officers' pension plan sponsored by a municipality providing police protection services pursuant to an interlocal agreement will benefit from the receipt of premium tax revenues collected by the municipality receiving police protection services.

Duval County is the only consolidated government in the State of Florida at this time. This may change in the future and this bill would have a larger cumulative effect at that time.

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<sup>7</sup> Department of Revenue, Senate Bill 698 Fiscal Analysis (November 8, 2011) (on file with the Senate Committee on Community Affairs).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

In 2005, the Legislature made similar changes to ch. 175, F.S., relating to the Firefighters' Pension Trust Fund. Sections 175.041 and 175.101, F.S., allow a municipality to receive excise tax monies for firefighter pension plans from another municipality if there is an interlocal agreement in place to provide fire protection services.

**VIII. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

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

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.