

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 1324  
**Version:** As introduced

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**Subject:** Volunteer first responder aid

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Expands the volunteer first responder aid pilot program enacted in 2014 to all of greater Minnesota, and makes the program permanent and on-going.

Under the program the commissioner of public safety annually certifies lists of eligible volunteers to the commissioner of revenue, who pays aid to the entities that volunteers served; the entities then pay a \$500 stipend to each individual who volunteered for all of the previous calendar year.

The definition of “qualifying volunteer” used to determine eligibility for stipends remains unchanged, and includes volunteer firefighters, volunteer ambulance attendants, and volunteer emergency medical responders who serve providers headquartered in the pilot area (service provided in 2014) or greater Minnesota (service provided in 2015 and following years).

Modifies the report required to be presented to the legislature in 2018 to apply to the pilot area for aid paid in 2015, and to all of greater Minnesota for aid paid in 2016 and 2017.

Repeals the program sunset.

**Background.** Laws 2014, Chapter 308, provided for a three-year pilot program providing \$500 annual stipends to volunteer first responders in four designated areas, with stipends to be paid in fiscal years 2016 through 2018, for service provided in calendar years 2014 through 2016.