

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

H.B. 349
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10169-MHa-31

Short Title: Firefighter PFAS Management/Research. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Sasser.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO ADDRESS AND MINIMIZE EXPOSURE OF
3 FIREFIGHTERS TO PFAS IN FIREFIGHTING FOAM.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.(a)** Funding. – The sum of twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) in
6 nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year is appropriated from the General Fund to the
7 North Carolina Collaboratory (Collaboratory) for programs related to management of aqueous
8 film-forming foams (AFFF) containing per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) used by
9 local fire departments and to PFAS-related research. For purposes of this act, "local fire
10 department" means a fire department operated, regulated, or managed by one or more units of
11 State or local government, including those located at or serving public airports. These funds are
12 allocated to the Collaboratory for the following purposes:

- 13 (1) To conduct a voluntary buyback program for stocks of PFAS-containing
14 AFFF owned or stored by local fire departments. The program may also
15 include the purchase and distribution of replacement PFAS-free foams.
- 16 (2) To develop, acquire, and deploy facilities and technologies to safely store and
17 destroy PFAS-containing AFFF.
- 18 (3) To plan and construct an AFFF firefighting training site that will allow fire
19 departments to train with PFAS-containing AFFF while minimizing the
20 environmental impacts of this training. The facility will be designed to contain
21 runoff from PFAS-containing AFFF and will allow for study of the
22 environmental and personal exposure risks associated with these training
23 activities as well as the development of new protective equipment or training
24 techniques to minimize exposure risk. The training site shall be sited at the
25 Office of the State Fire Marshal's Advanced Rescue Training Facility in
26 Stanly County.
- 27 (4) To provide competitive research grants for (i) human exposure and other
28 studies intended to assess the long-term health risk to firefighters and other
29 emergency response personnel and their family members from exposure to
30 PFAS-containing AFFF and related PFAS-containing materials and (ii) other
31 research related to PFAS in water and air, PFAS toxicology and human
32 exposure, and the mitigation, removal, or destruction of PFAS and
33 PFAS-containing materials.
- 34 (5) To fund upgrades to aerosol laboratory space at North Carolina State
35 University for studies of airborne PFAS exposure.



1 **SECTION 1.(b)** Funding Flexibility. – Funds appropriated by this act (i) shall not
2 revert to the General Fund at the end of the 2024-2025 fiscal year, but shall remain available until
3 expended, and (ii) shall not apply to the carryforward limitation imposed on constituent
4 institutions of The University of North Carolina by G.S. 116-30.3.

5 **SECTION 1.(c)** Report. – The Collaboratory shall provide an interim report no later
6 than September 1, 2024, and a final report no later than May 1, 2026, on its use of the funds
7 appropriated by this act. The report shall include amounts and sources of PFAS-containing AFFF
8 acquired from local fire departments and a summary of research findings and conclusions.

9 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2023.