The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 128-21 reads as rewritten:


The following words and phrases as used in this Article, unless a different meaning is plainly required by the context, shall have the following meanings:

(11) "Employer" shall mean any county, incorporated city or town, the board of alcoholic control of any county or incorporated city or town, the North Carolina League of Municipalities, and the State Association of County Commissioners, and the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association. "Employer" shall also mean any separate, juristic political subdivision of the State as may be approved by the Board of Trustees upon the advice of the Attorney General. "Employer" also means any fire department that serves a city or county or any part of a city or county and that is supported in whole or in part by municipal or county funds.

SECTION 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 2009.