

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6462

As of January 25, 2010

Title: An act relating to firefighter duties.

Brief Description: Addressing the duties of a firefighter at the scene of a wildfire beyond the boundaries of the firefighter's district.

Sponsors: Senators Honeyford, Hewitt, Schoesler, Holmquist, Stevens, Morton, Delvin, King, Roach, Becker and Swecker.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Government Operations & Elections: 1/28/10.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ELECTIONS

Staff: Edward Redmond (786-7471)

Background: Fire protection districts are created to provide fire prevention, fire suppression, and emergency services within a district's boundaries. A fire protection district may be established through voter approval and financed by imposing regular property taxes, excess voter-approved property tax levies, and benefit charges. Currently, firefighters are not required to engage in fire suppression efforts if the fire occurs outside the boundaries of their fire protection district.

Summary of Bill: A firefighter present at the scene of a wildfire has a duty to undertake fire-suppressing efforts if the fire poses a danger to human life or structures. This duty extends to wildfires beyond the boundaries of the firefighter's district. No such duty, however, is required when a firefighter does not have the equipment or manpower at the scene to fight the fire in a safe or reasonable manner.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

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