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HOUSE BILL 1539

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Honeyford, Fisher, Schoesler and Sheldon

Read first time 01/30/97. Referred to Committee on Government Administration.

1 AN ACT Relating to fire district associations; and amending RCW  
2 52.12.031.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 52.12.031 and 1995 c 369 s 65 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 Any fire protection district organized under this title may:

7 (1) Lease, acquire, own, maintain, operate, and provide fire and  
8 emergency medical apparatus and all other necessary or proper  
9 facilities, machinery, and equipment for the prevention and suppression  
10 of fires, the providing of emergency medical services and the  
11 protection of life and property;

12 (2) Lease, acquire, own, maintain, and operate real property,  
13 improvements, and fixtures for housing, repairing, and maintaining the  
14 apparatus, facilities, machinery, and equipment described in subsection  
15 (1) of this section;

16 (3) Contract with any governmental entity under chapter 39.34 RCW  
17 or private person or entity to consolidate, provide, or cooperate for  
18 fire prevention protection, fire suppression, investigation, and  
19 emergency medical purposes. In so contracting, the district or

1 governmental entity is deemed for all purposes to be acting within its  
2 governmental capacity. This contracting authority includes the  
3 furnishing of fire prevention, fire suppression, investigation,  
4 emergency medical services, facilities, and equipment to or by the  
5 district, governmental entity, or private person or entity;

6 (4) Encourage uniformity and coordination of fire protection  
7 district operations. The fire commissioners of fire protection  
8 districts may form an association to secure information of value in  
9 suppressing and preventing fires and other district purposes, to hold  
10 and attend meetings, and to promote more economical and efficient  
11 operation of the associated fire protection districts. The  
12 commissioners of fire protection districts in the association shall  
13 adopt articles of association as a municipal corporation or articles of  
14 incorporation for a nonprofit corporation, select a chairman,  
15 secretary, and other officers as they may determine, and may employ and  
16 discharge agents and employees as the officers deem convenient to carry  
17 out the purposes of the association. The expenses of the association  
18 may be paid from funds paid into the association by fire protection  
19 districts: PROVIDED, That the aggregate contributions made to the  
20 association by a district in a calendar year shall not exceed two and  
21 one-half cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation;

22 (5) Enter into contracts to provide group life insurance for the  
23 benefit of the personnel of the fire districts;

24 (6) Perform building and property inspections that the district  
25 deems necessary to provide fire prevention services and pre-fire  
26 planning within the district and any area that the district serves by  
27 contract in accordance with RCW 19.27.110: PROVIDED, That codes used  
28 by the district for building and property inspections shall be limited  
29 to the applicable codes adopted by the state, county, city, or town  
30 that has jurisdiction over the area in which the property is located.  
31 A copy of inspection reports prepared by the district shall be  
32 furnished by the district to the appropriate state, county, city, or  
33 town that has jurisdiction over the area in which the property is  
34 located: PROVIDED, That nothing in this subsection shall be construed  
35 to grant code enforcement authority to a district. This subsection  
36 shall not be construed as imposing liability on any governmental  
37 jurisdiction;

38 (7) Determine the origin and cause of fires occurring within the  
39 district and any area the district serves by contract. In exercising

1 the authority conferred by this subsection, the fire protection  
2 district and its authorized representatives shall comply with the  
3 provisions of RCW 48.48.060;

4 (8) Perform acts consistent with this title and not otherwise  
5 prohibited by law.

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