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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5670**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Local Government (originally sponsored by Senators Wagoner, Palumbo, Holy, Hobbs, and Honeyford)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding the allowable powers of fire  
2 protection districts; amending RCW 52.12.031; and adding a new  
3 section to chapter 28A.160 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 52.12.031 and 2010 c 8 s 15002 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Any fire protection district organized under this title may:

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

13 (2) Enter into an interlocal agreement with any local  
14 jurisdiction to maintain and repair any vehicle owned and used  
15 exclusively by such county, city, town, school district, or other  
16 political subdivision of the state of Washington. As used in this  
17 subsection, "local jurisdiction" means any county, city, town, school  
18 district, or other political subdivision of the state of Washington;

19 (3) Lease, acquire, own, maintain, and operate real property,  
20 improvements, and fixtures for housing, repairing, and maintaining

1 the apparatus, facilities, machinery, and equipment described in  
2 subsection (1) of this section;

3 ~~((3))~~ (4) Contract with any governmental entity under chapter  
4 39.34 RCW or private person or entity to consolidate, provide, or  
5 cooperate for fire prevention protection, fire suppression,  
6 investigation, and emergency medical purposes. In so contracting, the  
7 district or governmental entity is deemed for all purposes to be  
8 acting within its governmental capacity. This contracting authority  
9 includes the furnishing of fire prevention, fire suppression,  
10 investigation, emergency medical services, facilities, and equipment  
11 to or by the district, governmental entity, or private person or  
12 entity;

13 ~~((4))~~ (5) Encourage uniformity and coordination of fire  
14 protection district operations. The fire commissioners of fire  
15 protection districts may form an association to secure information of  
16 value in suppressing and preventing fires and other district  
17 purposes, to hold and attend meetings, and to promote more economical  
18 and efficient operation of the associated fire protection districts.  
19 The commissioners of fire protection districts in the association  
20 shall adopt articles of association or articles of incorporation for  
21 a nonprofit corporation, select a chair, secretary, and other  
22 officers as they may determine, and may employ and discharge agents  
23 and employees as the officers deem convenient to carry out the  
24 purposes of the association. The expenses of the association may be  
25 paid from funds paid into the association by fire protection  
26 districts: PROVIDED, That the aggregate contributions made to the  
27 association by a district in a calendar year shall not exceed two and  
28 one-half cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation;

29 ~~((5))~~ (6) Enter into contracts to provide group life insurance  
30 for the benefit of the personnel of the fire districts;

31 ~~((6))~~ (7) Perform building and property inspections that the  
32 district deems necessary to provide fire prevention services and pre-  
33 fire planning within the district and any area that the district  
34 serves by contract in accordance with RCW 19.27.110: PROVIDED, That  
35 codes used by the district for building and property inspections  
36 shall be limited to the applicable codes adopted by the state,  
37 county, city, or town that has jurisdiction over the area in which  
38 the property is located. A copy of inspection reports prepared by the  
39 district shall be furnished by the district to the appropriate state,  
40 county, city, or town that has jurisdiction over the area in which

1 the property is located: PROVIDED, That nothing in this subsection  
2 shall be construed to grant code enforcement authority to a district.  
3 This subsection shall not be construed as imposing liability on any  
4 governmental jurisdiction;

5 ~~((7))~~ (8) Determine the origin and cause of fires occurring  
6 within the district and any area the district serves by contract. In  
7 exercising the authority conferred by this subsection, the fire  
8 protection district and its authorized representatives shall comply  
9 with the provisions of RCW 43.44.050;

10 ~~((8))~~ (9) Perform acts consistent with this title and not  
11 otherwise prohibited by law.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.160  
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 The maintenance and repair of school buses may be provided by a  
15 fire protection district pursuant to RCW 52.12.031(1).

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