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**SENATE BILL 5670**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Wagoner, Palumbo, Holy, Hobbs, and Honeyford

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) Directly provide, enter into an interlocal agreement  
14 with any local government entity to provide, or contract with any  
15 local government entity to provide ordinary maintenance services and  
16 any administrative services that the district performs in support of  
17 its powers and purpose pursuant to chapter 52.02 RCW. As used in this  
18 section, "local government entity" has the same meaning as in RCW  
19 48.62.021;

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

36 ~~((5))~~ (7) Enter into contracts to provide group life insurance  
37 for the benefit of the personnel of the fire districts;

38 ~~((6))~~ (8) Perform building and property inspections that the  
39 district deems necessary to provide fire prevention services and pre-  
40 fire planning within the district and any area that the district

1 serves by contract in accordance with RCW 19.27.110: PROVIDED, That  
2 codes used by the district for building and property inspections  
3 shall be limited to the applicable codes adopted by the state,  
4 county, city, or town that has jurisdiction over the area in which  
5 the property is located. A copy of inspection reports prepared by the  
6 district shall be furnished by the district to the appropriate state,  
7 county, city, or town that has jurisdiction over the area in which  
8 the property is located: PROVIDED, That nothing in this subsection  
9 shall be construed to grant code enforcement authority to a district.  
10 This subsection shall not be construed as imposing liability on any  
11 governmental jurisdiction;

12 ~~((7))~~ (9) Determine the origin and cause of fires occurring  
13 within the district and any area the district serves by contract. In  
14 exercising the authority conferred by this subsection, the fire  
15 protection district and its authorized representatives shall comply  
16 with the provisions of RCW 43.44.050;

17 ~~((8))~~ (10) Perform acts consistent with this title and not  
18 otherwise prohibited by law.

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

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

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