

HCS SCS SB 968 -- FIRE PROTECTION

SPONSOR: Green (Walsh)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Local Government by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "do pass - not consent" by the Committee on Rules.

This substitute defines "fire department" as it relates to the laws regarding the jurisdiction and duties of the State Fire Marshal to include fire protection districts, municipal fire departments, and volunteer fire protection associations. Fire departments must file a fire department registration form by March 2, 2007; and the State Fire Marshal may issue each fire department an identification number based upon the registration. A volunteer fire protection association is required to identify and register its boundaries, which cannot overlap another department, with its county governing body.

The substitute also requires authorizing resolutions to be adopted by the boards of all adjacent existing fire protection districts before a new fire protection district can be created in St. Louis County after January 1, 2007.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that "fire department" is not currently defined in statute. It is important to do so in order for a department to apply for federal grants and training funds.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Green; Division of Fire Safety, Department of Public Safety; Monarch Fire Protection District; West County EMS and Fire Protection District; Metro West Fire Protection District; Creve Coeur Fire Protection District; and Missouri Fire Service Alliance.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Julie Jinkens McNitt, Legislative Analyst