



**Sub. H.B. 204\***

123rd General Assembly

(As Reported by S. State & Local Gov't & Veterans Affairs)

**Reps. Schuler, Winkler, Taylor, Van Vyven, Evans, Vesper, Olman, James, Terwilleger, Clancy, Roman, Carey, Verich, Sulzer**

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**BILL SUMMARY**

- Permits the municipal corporations and townships that comprise a joint fire district to pay the district's charges for ambulance or emergency medical services provided to their respective residents under certain circumstances.
- Permits two or more municipal corporations to form a joint fire district.
- Authorizes boards of township trustees associated with township fire departments, township fire districts, or joint fire districts to assess a fee under specified circumstances in false alarms originating from residential buildings.
- Extends the moratorium on the issuance of new licenses to manufacturers or wholesalers of fireworks through December 15, 2002.

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**CONTENT AND OPERATION**

**Payment for ambulance or emergency medical services**

**Existing law**

Current law provides for municipal corporations and townships, or two or more townships, to combine to form a joint fire district by adopting a joint resolution creating the district. The board of a joint fire district may establish reasonable charges for the use of ambulance or emergency medical services, and

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\* *This analysis was prepared before the report of the Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee appeared in the Senate Journal. Note that the list of co-sponsors and the legislative history may be incomplete.*

those charges may differ for residents and nonresidents of the district. In addition, the board of a joint fire district may waive, at its discretion, all or part of the charge for any resident of the district.<sup>1</sup> (Sec. 505.371.)

### **Changes proposed by the bill**

The bill permits two or more municipal corporations to form a joint fire district, in addition to the combinations of political subdivisions permitted under existing law. Then, the bill provides that, in the resolution creating a joint fire district, the political subdivisions that create the district may provide that any of those political subdivisions may agree to pay any charges for the use of ambulance or emergency medical services that the board of fire district trustees establishes and that are incurred by the residents of the particular political subdivision. Unless the board elects to waive those charges (in whole or in part), the residents of any political subdivision that has not agreed to pay those charges must pay their own charges. (Sec. 505.371(A) and (C)(2).) Any joint fire district already in existence when the bill goes into effect may amend its joint resolution to permit any of the political subdivisions involved to agree to pay those charges for their residents (Section 3 of the bill).

### **Authorization to charge a fee for false alarms from residential buildings**

Under current law, the board of township trustees associated with specified fire departments (township, township fire district, or joint fire district) or private fire companies with which they contract may assess a fee for certain false alarms after (1) the department or company responds to a false alarm and (2) the board gives a specified notice to the building's owner and lessee (if any) that a fee of up to \$300 may be assessed for subsequent false alarms. The false alarm must have originated from an automatic fire alarm system at a *commercial establishment*, and the fee may be assessed for any subsequent false alarm occurring within 30 days after any false alarm. The bill extends this authority to charge a fee for subsequent false alarms to false alarms originating from a *residential building* in which an automatic fire alarm system is installed. (Sec. 505.391.)

### **Extension of moratorium on the issuance of new licenses to manufacturers or wholesalers of fireworks**

Under existing uncodified law (Section 165 of Am. Sub. H.B. 215, 122nd G.A.), the State Fire Marshal generally is prohibited from issuing new licenses to

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<sup>1</sup> The board is referred to in statute as the board of fire district trustees, and the "charges" provisions will be located in division (C)(1) of section 505.371 under the bill.

manufacturers or wholesalers of fireworks, and from approving the transfer of their licenses to other locations, through December 15, 1999. The bill extends the current moratorium period through December 15, 2002. (Sections 4 and 5 of the bill.)

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	02-23-99	p. 225
Reported, H. Local Gov't & Townships	04-20-99	pp. 440-441
Passed House (95-0)	04-27-99	pp. 467-468
Reported, S. State & Local Gov't & Veterans Affairs	--	---

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