
**State Government Operations &
Accountability Committee**

HB 2088

Brief Description: Adding a ninth member to the state fire protection policy board.

Sponsors: Representatives Lantz, Haigh and Simpson.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Adds to the State Fire Protection Policy Board a member representing the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals.

Hearing Date: 3/1/05

Staff: Hannah Lidman (786-7291).

Background:

In 1985, the Legislature created the State Fire Protection Policy Board (Board). The Board assumed the duties of the former Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Fire Services Training Division in the Commission for Vocational Education. In 1995, the Legislature transferred all the powers, duties, and functions of the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development pertaining to fire protection to the Washington State Patrol, including oversight over the Board.

The Board is responsible for developing a comprehensive state policy regarding fire protection services, including the adoption of a master fire training and education plan, and the development of a master plan for constructing fire training facilities. The Board must also monitor fire protection in the state and develop objectives and priorities to improve fire protection.

The eight-member Board, appointed by the Governor, consists of the following:

- one representative of fire chiefs;
- one representative from the insurance industry;
- one representative of cities and towns;
- one representative of counties;
- one full-time, paid, career fire fighter;
- one volunteer fire fighter;
- one representative of fire commissioners; and
- one representative of fire control programs of the Department of Natural Resources.

Appointed members of the Board serve three-year terms and initial board members are appointed for the following terms of office:

- three members are appointed for one year;
- three members are appointed for two years; and
- four members are appointed for three years.

In 1995, three Board positions were eliminated and one position was added. State law permitted the Board members holding these positions to serve the remainder of their terms in office before the positions were eliminated.

The Washington State Association of Fire Marshals is a statewide fire prevention organization comprised of seven divisions working on national codes, state codes, legislative issues, professional development, communications, fire marshals forum, and fire investigation.

Summary of Bill:

One member, representing the State Association of Fire Marshals, is added to the State Fire Protection Policy Board.

The provision, under which three board positions were eliminated once vacancies occurred, is eliminated.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 25, 2005.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.