

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1193

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*As Reported By House Committee on:  
Local Government*

**Title:** An act relating to fire commissioners serving as volunteer fire fighters.

**Brief Description:** Modifying compensation conditions for fire commissioners who serve as volunteer fire fighters.

**Sponsor(s):** Representatives Zellinsky, Franklin, Nealey, Haugen, Bray, Wynne, Cooper, Rayburn, Winsley, R. Meyers and Scott.

**Brief History:**

Reported by House Committee on:  
Local Government, February 13, 1991, DP.

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**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**Majority Report:** *Do pass.* Signed by 12 members: Representatives Haugen, Chair; Cooper, Vice Chair; Bray; Edmondson; Franklin; Nealey; Nelson; Rayburn; Roland; Wood; Wynne; and Zellinsky.

**Minority Report:** *Do not pass.* Signed by 3 members: Representatives Ferguson, Ranking Minority Member; Mitchell, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; and Horn.

**Staff:** Steve Lundin (786-7127).

**Background:** The board of commissioners of a fire protection district can authorize any of its members to serve the district as a volunteer fire fighter if the resolution authorizing this service is approved by a unanimous vote. Such a commissioner serves as a volunteer fire fighter without receiving compensation for being a volunteer fire fighter.

**Summary of Bill:** The resolution that a board of commissioners of a fire protection district adopts authorizing one of its members to serve as a volunteer fire fighter need only be approved by a simple majority vote, instead of a unanimous vote.

The prohibition on a commissioner who serves as a volunteer fire fighter, from receiving compensation for the volunteer work, does not include reimbursement for expenses.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** Presently, two fire commissioners can authorize the purchase of a \$200,000 fire truck, but a commissioner cannot serve as a volunteer fireman without a unanimous vote of the board.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Witnesses:** (Testified in favor.) Roger Ferris, Washington Fire Commissioners Association; and Otto Jensen, Washington State Association of Fire Chiefs. (Gary Gabelein, fire commissioner, submitted written testimony in support.)