

---

SENATE BILL 5824

---

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Parlette and Horn

Read first time 02/13/2003. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing rural fire protection districts to  
2 contract with cities for ambulance services and impose a monthly  
3 utility service charge on each developed residential property located  
4 in the fire protection district; and amending RCW 52.12.031.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 52.12.031 and 1995 c 369 s 65 are each amended to read  
7 as follows:

8 Any fire protection district organized under this title may:

9 (1) Lease, acquire, own, maintain, operate, and provide fire and  
10 emergency medical apparatus and all other necessary or proper  
11 facilities, machinery, and equipment for the prevention and suppression  
12 of fires, the providing of emergency medical services and the  
13 protection of life and property;

14 (2) Lease, acquire, own, maintain, and operate real property,  
15 improvements, and fixtures for housing, repairing, and maintaining the  
16 apparatus, facilities, machinery, and equipment described in subsection  
17 (1) of this section;

18 (3) Contract with any governmental entity under chapter 39.34 RCW  
19 or private person or entity to consolidate, provide, or cooperate for

1 fire prevention protection, fire suppression, investigation, and  
2 emergency medical purposes. In so contracting, the district or  
3 governmental entity is deemed for all purposes to be acting within its  
4 governmental capacity. This contracting authority includes the  
5 furnishing of fire prevention, fire suppression, investigation,  
6 emergency medical services, facilities, and equipment to or by the  
7 district, governmental entity, or private person or entity;

8 (4) Encourage uniformity and coordination of fire protection  
9 district operations. The fire commissioners of fire protection  
10 districts may form an association to secure information of value in  
11 suppressing and preventing fires and other district purposes, to hold  
12 and attend meetings, and to promote more economical and efficient  
13 operation of the associated fire protection districts. The  
14 commissioners of fire protection districts in the association shall  
15 adopt articles of association or articles of incorporation for a  
16 nonprofit corporation, select a chairman, secretary, and other officers  
17 as they may determine, and may employ and discharge agents and  
18 employees as the officers deem convenient to carry out the purposes of  
19 the association. The expenses of the association may be paid from  
20 funds paid into the association by fire protection districts:  
21 PROVIDED, That the aggregate contributions made to the association by  
22 a district in a calendar year shall not exceed two and one-half cents  
23 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation;

24 (5) Enter into contracts to provide group life insurance for the  
25 benefit of the personnel of the fire districts;

26 (6) Perform building and property inspections that the district  
27 deems necessary to provide fire prevention services and pre-fire  
28 planning within the district and any area that the district serves by  
29 contract in accordance with RCW 19.27.110: PROVIDED, That codes used  
30 by the district for building and property inspections shall be limited  
31 to the applicable codes adopted by the state, county, city, or town  
32 that has jurisdiction over the area in which the property is located.  
33 A copy of inspection reports prepared by the district shall be  
34 furnished by the district to the appropriate state, county, city, or  
35 town that has jurisdiction over the area in which the property is  
36 located: PROVIDED, That nothing in this subsection shall be construed  
37 to grant code enforcement authority to a district. This subsection

1 shall not be construed as imposing liability on any governmental  
2 jurisdiction;

3 (7) Determine the origin and cause of fires occurring within the  
4 district and any area the district serves by contract. In exercising  
5 the authority conferred by this subsection, the fire protection  
6 district and its authorized representatives shall comply with the  
7 provisions of RCW 48.48.060;

8 (8) Perform acts consistent with this title and not otherwise  
9 prohibited by law;

10 (9) Enter into a contract pursuant to chapter 39.34 RCW with a city  
11 lying contiguous to the fire protection district for the furnishing by  
12 the city to the fire protection district of emergency medical services  
13 in the form of ambulance services. The fire protection district may  
14 impose a monthly utility service charge on each developed residential  
15 property located in the portion of the fire protection district served  
16 pursuant to the contract in an amount equal to the amount imposed by  
17 the city on similar city developed residential property. Developed  
18 residential property includes single-family residences, apartments,  
19 manufactured homes, mobile homes, and trailers available for occupancy  
20 for a continuous period greater than thirty days. A fire protection  
21 district may contract with the city or any other governmental entity  
22 pursuant to chapter 39.34 RCW for the monthly utility service charge  
23 related billing and collection services. A city providing ambulance  
24 services to a fire protection district under a contract entered into  
25 pursuant to this subsection may charge individuals actually using the  
26 ambulance services reasonable rates and charges for the ambulance  
27 services.

--- END ---