
Local Government Committee

SSB 6445

Brief Description: Allowing cost recovery for fire protection and public safety services rendered on navigable waters of the state to commercial vessels by fire protection agencies.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections (originally sponsored by Senator Pridemore).

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Substitute Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allows fire protection agencies to recover any costs associated with responding to a fire or public safety incident involving a commercial vessel on navigable waters.

Hearing Date: 2/26/08

Staff: Lyset Cadena (786-7291).

Background:

Fire Departments

City and town fire departments set standards for addressing the reporting and accountability of career fire departments, and specify performance measures applicable to response time objectives for certain major services.

Cities and towns are required to maintain a written statement or policy establishing the following:

- the existence of a fire department;
- services the fire department is required to provide;
- the basic organizational structure of the fire department;
- the expected number of fire department employees; and
- functions fire department employees are expected to perform.

Cities and towns must provide service delivery objectives in a written statement or policy. The objectives need to include specific response times for the following major service components, if appropriate:

- fire suppression;
- emergency medical services;

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- special operations;
- aircraft rescue and fire fighting;
- marine rescue and fire fighting; and
- wild land fire fighting.

Regional Fire Protection Service Authorities

A Regional Fire Protection Service Authority (Authority) may be created for the purpose of conducting selected fire protection functions at a regional level. An Authority can be created by the merger of two or more adjacent fire protection jurisdictions, including fire protection districts, cities, port districts, and Indian tribes.

Fire Protection Agencies Cost Recovery

There are no provisions under state law that explicitly address the recovery by a fire protection agency of costs related to responding to a fire or public safety incident on a commercial vessel within the navigable waters of the state.

Summary of Bill:

Fire protection agencies may recover costs associated with responding to a fire or public safety incident involving a commercial vessel on navigable waters.

The costs fire protection agencies are authorized to recover include:

- the contract or reasonable value of the use, including repairs and depreciation, of the apparatus and equipment used;
- the cost of fire protection personnel engaged to provide marine rescue and firefighting services; and
- all other costs reasonably incurred in providing the marine rescue and firefighting services.

Cost recovery associated with responding to a fire or public safety incident involving a commercial vessel on navigable waters does not preempt or limit the cost recovery rights and remedies available to fire protection agencies by other state or federal law.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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