
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5925

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senate Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs (originally sponsored by Senators Torres, Lovelett, Short, and Van De Wege)

READ FIRST TIME 01/26/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to fire protection district commissioner per diem
2 compensation; and reenacting and amending RCW 52.14.010.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 52.14.010 and 2017 c 328 s 7 and 2017 c 58 s 1 are
5 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

6 (1) The affairs of the district shall be managed by a board of
7 fire commissioners composed initially of three registered voters
8 residing in the district, except as provided otherwise in RCW
9 52.14.015, 52.14.020, and 52.14.140.

10 (2)(a) Each member of an elected board of fire commissioners
11 shall each receive one hundred four dollars per day or portion
12 thereof, not to exceed nine thousand nine hundred eighty-four dollars
13 per year, for time spent in actual attendance at official meetings of
14 the board or in performance of other services or duties on behalf of
15 the district, except that a commissioner of a district which has an
16 operating budget of \$10,000,000 or more may receive not more than 144
17 per diem payments at the per diem rate specified by the office of
18 financial management, adjusted for inflation per subsection (4) of
19 this section. Members serving in an ex officio capacity on a board of
20 fire commissioners may not receive compensation, but shall receive
21 necessary expenses in accordance with (b) of this subsection.

1 (b) Each member of a board of fire commissioners shall receive
2 necessary expenses incurred in attending meetings of the board or
3 when otherwise engaged in district business, and shall be entitled to
4 receive the same insurance available to all firefighters of the
5 district: PROVIDED, That the premiums for such insurance, except
6 liability insurance, shall be paid by the individual commissioners
7 who elect to receive it.

8 (c) Any commissioner may waive all or any portion of his or her
9 compensation payable under this section as to any month or months
10 during his or her term of office, by a written waiver filed with the
11 secretary as provided in this section. The waiver, to be effective,
12 must be filed any time after the commissioner's election and prior to
13 the date on which the compensation would otherwise be paid. The
14 waiver shall specify the month or period of months for which it is
15 made.

16 (3) The board shall fix the compensation to be paid the secretary
17 and all other agents and employees of the district. The board may, by
18 resolution adopted by unanimous vote, authorize any of its members to
19 serve as volunteer firefighters without compensation. A commissioner
20 actually serving as a volunteer firefighter may enjoy the rights and
21 benefits of a volunteer firefighter.

22 (4) The dollar thresholds established in this section must be
23 adjusted for inflation by the office of financial management every
24 five years, beginning January 1, 2019, based upon changes in the
25 consumer price index during that time period. "Consumer price index"
26 means, for any calendar year, that year's annual average consumer
27 price index, for Washington state, for wage earners and clerical
28 workers, all items, compiled by the bureau of labor and statistics,
29 United States department of labor. If the bureau of labor and
30 statistics develops more than one consumer price index for areas
31 within the state, the index covering the greatest number of people,
32 covering areas exclusively within the boundaries of the state, and
33 including all items shall be used for the adjustments for inflation
34 in this section. The office of financial management must calculate
35 the new dollar threshold and transmit it to the office of the code
36 reviser for publication in the Washington State Register at least one
37 month before the new dollar threshold is to take effect.

38 (5) A person holding office as commissioner for two or more
39 special purpose districts or serving ex officio as commissioner as a
40 member of the legislative authority of a city or town shall receive

1 only that per diem compensation authorized for one of his or her
2 official positions as compensation for attending an official meeting
3 or conducting official services or duties while representing more
4 than one district or representing a municipality and a district.
5 However, such commissioner may receive additional per diem
6 compensation if approved by resolution of the boards of an affected
7 commission, city, or town.

--- END ---