
HOUSE BILL 1798

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Volz, Chase, and Eslick

Read first time 02/03/25. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to enabling county auditors and county treasurers
2 to have designees appointed to firefighters' pension boards; and
3 amending RCW 41.18.015.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 41.18.015 and 2020 c 107 s 4 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) There is hereby created in each fire protection district
8 which qualifies under this chapter, a firefighters' pension board to
9 consist of the following five members, the chairperson of the fire
10 commissioners for said district who shall be chairperson of the
11 board, the county auditor or the county auditor's designee, the
12 county treasurer or the county treasurer's designee, and in addition,
13 two regularly employed or retired firefighters elected by secret
14 ballot of the employed and retired firefighters. Retired members who
15 are subject to the jurisdiction of the pension board have both the
16 right to elect and the right to be elected under this section. The
17 first members to be elected by the firefighters shall be elected
18 annually for a two-year term. The two firefighter elected members
19 shall, in turn, select a third eligible member who shall serve in the
20 event of an absence of one of the regularly elected members. In case
21 a vacancy occurs in the membership of the firefighter or retired

1 members, the members shall in the same manner elect a successor to
2 serve the unexpired term. The board may select and appoint a
3 secretary who may, but need not be a member of the board. In case of
4 absence or inability of the chairperson to act, the board may select
5 a chairperson pro tempore who shall during such absence or inability
6 perform the duties and exercise the powers of the chairperson. A
7 majority of the members of said board shall constitute a quorum and
8 have power to transact business.

9 (2) If no eligible regularly employed or retired firefighters are
10 willing or able to be elected to the board under subsection (1) of
11 this section, then the following individuals may be elected to the
12 board under subsection (1) of this section:

13 (a) Any active or retired firefighters who reside within the
14 jurisdiction served by the board. This includes active and retired
15 firefighters under this chapter and chapters 41.16, 41.26, and 52.26
16 RCW;

17 (b) The widow or widower of a firefighter subject to the
18 jurisdiction of the board.

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