

Submitter: Scott Richardson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure: SB1068

I am writing in support of SB 1068. This bill removes an inequity by allowing Fire Districts stable funding where everyone within their Fire District response area or boundary pay their fair share. This seems like a logical solution considering most taxes the public currently pay are not a choice. There is no reason taxes for public safety should be a choice that some people pay, and some simply choose not to. This is simply unfair. This is especially important in a state like ours that continues to see devastating fires or other major emergencies each year.

It was stated at one point in some testimony, that some Fire District's may go bankrupt if something isn't done. While this may have occurred at one time, it will probably be difficult to find these organizations. Organizations that have financial challenges usually develop creative ways to continue to provide service through things such as contracts, mergers, consolidations, etc. Some must reduce or eliminate specific services altogether to combat increasing costs and balance budget constraints. Passage of SB1068 would begin to remedy some of these ongoing concerns and issues.

The fire service continues to use the dollars given to them in proactive ways to provide the best services to their taxpayers.

This bill is a fair and logical step in the right direction to fixing this fairness issue and I ask that you support SB 1068 and move it out of committee.