

S.F. No. 1367 – Creating Fire Protection Special Taxing Districts

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Date: March 16, 2021

SF 1367 authorizes a general law fire protection special taxing district. Under current law, fire protection special taxing districts require legislative approval.

Section 1. Special Taxing Districts; Definition. Adds fire protection special taxing districts to the statutory list of special taxing districts.

Section 2. Fire Protection Special Taxing Districts. Authorizes two or more political subdivisions to establish a special taxing district to provide fire protection or emergency medical services, or both. An agreement between participating political subdivisions must be entered into before the district may be established.

Subdivision 1. Definitions. Defines “city,” government body,” and “political subdivision.”

Subdivision 2. Authority to establish. Authorizes two or more political subdivisions to establish, by resolution, a special taxing district to provide fire protection, emergency medical services, or both. Before establishing a district, the participating subdivisions must enter into an agreement that specifies how liabilities and assets will be distributed if the district is dissolved.

Subdivision 3. Board. Provides that the district be governed by a board made up initially of representatives of each participating member. A board member must be an elected member of the governing body of the political subdivision they represent.

Subdivision 4. Property tax levy. Authorizes the district board to levy a tax on taxable property in the district or apportion its levy among the participating members under a formula with factors including population, number of service calls, or costs of providing service.

Subdivision 5. Use of levy proceeds. Requires that property tax proceeds be used to provide fire protection or emergency medical services to residents and property within the district, in addition to paying debt authorized under subdivision 6.

Subdivision 6. Debt. Authorizes the district to incur, and issue certificate of indebtedness or capital notes to purchase capital equipment.

Subdivision 7. Powers. Provides the district with the same powers and authorities granted to participating political subdivisions that are necessary to support the services of the district.

Subdivision 8. Additions and withdrawals. Allows political subdivisions to be added or withdrawn from an existing district. A political subdivision that wishes to withdraw from a district must provide two years' notice and must continue to pay its share of any debt issued during the time the political subdivision was a member of the district.

Subdivision 9. Dissolution. Authorizes the dissolution of the district by majority vote of its board. Any outstanding assets and liabilities are assigned according to the district's founding agreement. A district may not be dissolved until all debt issued has been paid.

Effective the date following final enactment.