



IDAHO STATE FIRE COMMISSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

February 19, 2018

Chairperson and Committee members, thank you for your consideration regarding S1309.

My name is David "Rudy" Rudebaugh. I am an elected fire district commissioner for the Timberlake Fire District in Athol, Idaho and President of the Idaho State Fire Commissioners' Association.

We are here today to discuss the requested changes to statute 31-1409, 31-1418 and 56-1018b within S1309.

About the requested change to 31-1409. This change is needed to insure fire districts within the state of Idaho have a procedure in place should they experience a majority of their local board of commissioner's positions become vacant. The key importance of the change will allow the entity to be able to perform the required duties of continued operation of a fire district with minimal disruption of emergency services to those they serve. Once the county commissioners appoint enough qualified individuals to regain a districts quorum, the said district can then fulfill the remaining positions as already provided for within statute 31-1409. When the district has zones in more than one county, it further insures all fire district citizens to have taxation with representation.

The request to repeal 31-1418. Within my home fire district and common throughout the state, fire district elected commissioners have had continued strain to comply with the current requirement to have 2 alternate commissioners should they be unable to perform their duties for longer than 90 days. In a majority of the 164 fire districts, this requirement remains difficult at best and many times due to the lack of interest and qualification of electors. Many times, the compliance is done by appointing family members or friends, so the district can follow the requirement imposed. While the intent of 31-1418 is understood, it also only appears in statues referring to legislative levels of our government, not taxing entities such as fire districts. The repeal of 31-1418 along with the procedures in 31-1409, provide for the best outcome for fire districts in having properly qualified commissioners.

The requested change to 56-1018b makes a fire district who is awarded an EMS grant able to license vehicles in the fire districts name. Since the fire districts is responsible for the grant, the city or county should not be required to title and license said vehicles acquired via the EMS grants.

The overall effect of these changes provides clarity and effective operation of Idaho's fire districts with maximum transparency.

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**"To inform, educate, represent, lead and serve the fire district
preservation and protection of life and property"**

Attachment 1



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These changes have no fiscal impact on a fire district or other governmental entities.
Chairperson and Committee members, I thank you again for your strongest consideration and approval of S1309.

Sincerely,

David "Rudy" Rudebaugh
President
Idaho State Fire Commissioners' Association

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