

HB 2415 -- Fire Protection District Police Officers

Sponsor: Walton

This bill allows the board of directors of any fire protection district to appoint or hire as many district police officers as the board deems necessary to patrol the public buildings and property and other facilities and locations over which the board has charge and control.

The district police officers will have the same authority to maintain order, preserve peace, and make arrests as regular peace officers, including the power to expel persons from public buildings and grounds for violating rules and regulations of the board.

Unless licensed as a peace officer under Chapter 590, RSMo, district police officers must complete at least 320 hours of training as prescribed by the State Highway Patrol before appointment or before beginning their duties. The board can continue to appoint guards and watchmen who are not given district police officer powers.

Currently, any person violating a board regulation is guilty of a misdemeanor, prosecutable in the circuit court by the county prosecuting attorney or the fire protection district's legal officer or attorney if appointed by the prosecuting attorney. The bill requires the district's legal officer or attorney to be appointed the ex officio special assistant prosecuting attorney for these violations.

The bill contains an emergency clause.