

HB 1458 -- Fire Protection Services

Sponsor: Hinson

Currently, the Division of Fire Safety, within the Department of Public Safety, and the State Fire Marshal are responsible for establishing and maintaining a voluntary training and certification program. A certification testing and recertification fee for the program is collected and deposited into the General Revenue Fund. This bill requires the fee to be deposited into the Fire Education Fund established in Section 320.094, RSMo.

The bill requires any fire protection district director who has been found guilty of or pled guilty to any felony offense to immediately forfeit his or her office.

Currently, two or more fire protection districts may consolidate with each other only if the districts have one or more common boundaries, in whole or in part. The bill also allows two or more districts to consolidate if they are located within the same county, in whole or in part.

The bill lowers the number of qualified signatures required in order to recall an officer of a fire protection district board from 25% to 15% of the number of voters who voted in the most recent gubernatorial election in that district.