

HB 2078 -- VOLUNTEER FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATIONS

SPONSOR: Smith (155)

Counties, as well as incorporated towns and cities, may adopt an ordinance, when requested by a volunteer fire department, that allows the county collector to collect annual dues charged by a volunteer fire department or association. The process for requesting the ordinance is specified in the bill.

The county collector must call for an election to pose the question to voters of whether to include fire association dues of each residence and business with an occupiable structure. The ordinance shall set forth the terms and conditions for collection and, by majority vote, the county commission can designate the geographical area of service.

Upon voter approval, volunteer fire protection association dues will be listed annually on real property tax statements and collected by the county collector, who shall also report to the volunteer fire protection association any delinquencies. The volunteer fire protection association may enforce collection of delinquent dues by court procedure.

By December 15th of each year or upon the creation of a volunteer fire protection association, an organization that uses or intends to use the county collector must file an annual report with the county clerk in each county of the association's operating jurisdiction. The content requirements of the annual report are specified in the bill.

This bill is similar to HB 665 (2023).