

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009

A Bill

SENATE BILL 122

4
5 By: Senator Bledsoe
6 By: Representative Baird

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO MODIFY THE LAW CONCERNING THE SERVICE
11 AREA AND DUES OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS; AND
12 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

15 TO MODIFY THE LAW CONCERNING THE SERVICE
16 AREA AND DUES OF VOLUNTEER FIRE
17 DEPARTMENTS.

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19
20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

21
22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 14-20-108 is amended to read as follows:
23 14-20-108. Dues for volunteer fire departments.

24 (a)(1)(A)(i) The quorum court of each county, upon request ~~therefor~~
25 filed with the quorum court by one (1) or more volunteer fire departments in
26 the county, may adopt an ordinance authorizing a designated county official
27 to collect and remit to the volunteer fire department ~~or departments~~ the
28 annual or quarterly dues charged by the volunteer fire department ~~or~~
29 ~~departments~~ in consideration of providing fire protection to unincorporated
30 areas in the county.

31 (ii)(a) If approved by ordinance by the governing
32 body of an incorporated town or a city of the second class, an incorporated
33 town or a city of the second class located in the volunteer fire department
34 district that is not served by a fire department may be included in the fire
35 protection area.

36 (b) Dues shall be collected in the same manner



1 as in the unincorporated areas served by the volunteer fire department
2 district.

3 (B)(i)(a)(1) When ~~any county~~ a quorum court receives a
4 request for the levy of volunteer fire department dues and the request has
5 been signed by the fire chief and the chair and secretary of the board of
6 directors, if any, of a volunteer fire department and filed with the county
7 clerk, the quorum court by ordinance shall call for an election on the issue
8 of the levy of the volunteer fire department dues on each residence and on
9 each business having an occupiable structure ~~if the request has been signed~~
10 ~~by the fire chief and all other officers of a volunteer fire department and~~
11 ~~filed with the county clerk.~~

12 (2) At the discretion of a volunteer
13 fire department, a church served by a volunteer fire department may be exempt
14 from dues if the church is exempt from real property taxes.

15 (b)(1) The issue may be placed on the ballot
16 at a special election by order of the ~~county~~ quorum court in accordance with
17 § 7-5-103(b).

18 (2) The special election shall be held
19 by August 1.

20 (c)(1) If the levy is approved by a majority
21 of those voting on the issue, the dues shall be listed annually on real
22 property tax statements and collected by the county collector at the same
23 time and in the same manner as real and personal property taxes.

24 (2) If the dues are not paid at the same
25 time as real and personal property taxes, the county collector shall not
26 accept payment of the real and personal property taxes.

27 (ii) The cost of the election
28 shall be borne by the volunteer fire department ~~or departments~~ that requested
29 the levy.

30 (2) The ordinance enacted by the quorum court shall set forth
31 the terms and conditions on which ~~such~~ the dues are to be collected by the
32 county and for the remission of the dues to the volunteer fire ~~departments~~
33 department.

34 (3) ~~Provided, however, active members of the volunteer fire~~
35 ~~departments~~ However an active member of a volunteer fire department whose
36 annual or quarterly dues are collected in this manner may be exempt from the

1 annual or quarterly dues charged by the volunteer fire department at the
2 discretion of the volunteer fire department in consideration of providing
3 services to the volunteer fire department.

4 (b)(1) The quorum court by majority vote may designate the
5 geographical area that a volunteer fire department may serve.

6 (2) Upon request by a volunteer fire department, the quorum
7 court of each county involved may authorize a volunteer fire department to
8 serve a geographical area to extend across the county boundary lines.

9 (c) The quorum court may establish its own countywide fire department,
10 either regular or voluntary.

11 (d) This section does not change the authority of intergovernmental
12 cooperation councils to enter into reciprocal agreements or to distribute
13 funds under § 14-284-401 et seq. and § 26-57-614.

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