

SENATE FILE 164
BY REHBERG and HOSCH

(COMPANION TO LSB
2298HH BY LUKAN)

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to fire fighter preparedness by creating a fire
2 fighter preparedness fund, providing a voluntary checkoff for
3 fire fighter preparedness, establishing requirements of the
4 county treasurer, and making an appropriation.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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SF 164
STATE GOVERNMENT

1 Section 1. Section 100B.2, Code 2003, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 9. Design the voluntary checkoff form for
4 fire fighter preparedness pursuant to section 445.7.

5 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 100B.12 FIRE FIGHTER PREPAREDNESS
6 FUND.

7 1. A fire fighter preparedness fund is created as a
8 separate and distinct fund in the state treasury under the
9 control of the division of fire protection of the department
10 of public safety.

11 2. Revenue for the fire fighter preparedness fund shall
12 include, but is not limited to, the following:

13 a. Moneys credited to the fund pursuant to section 445.7.

14 b. Moneys in the form of a devise, gift, bequest,
15 donation, or federal or other grant intended to be used for
16 the purposes of the fund.

17 3. Moneys in the fire fighter preparedness fund are not
18 subject to section 8.33. Notwithstanding section 12C.7,
19 subsection 2, interest or earnings on moneys in the fund shall
20 be credited to the fund.

21 4. Moneys in the fire fighter preparedness fund are
22 appropriated to the division of fire protection of the
23 department of public safety to be used annually to pay the
24 costs of providing fire fighter training around the state and
25 to pay the costs of providing fire fighter training equipment.

26 Sec. 3. Section 331.552, Code 2003, is amended by adding
27 the following new subsection:

28 NEW SUBSECTION. 31A. Carry out duties relating to the
29 voluntary checkoff for fire fighter preparedness pursuant to
30 section 445.7 and account for, report, and pay monthly into
31 the state treasury any money contributed to the fire fighter
32 preparedness fund.

33 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 445.7 VOLUNTARY CHECKOFF FOR FIRE
34 FIGHTER PREPAREDNESS.

35 1. The treasurer shall include with each tax statement

1 delivered pursuant to section 445.5 a voluntary checkoff form
2 for fire fighter preparedness. The voluntary checkoff form
3 shall be separate from the tax statement. The person or
4 entity receiving the tax statement may contribute not less
5 than one dollar to be paid to the fire fighter preparedness
6 fund created in section 100B.12. A contribution made pursuant
7 to this section to the fire fighter preparedness fund is
8 irrevocable.

9 2. The state fire service and emergency response council
10 shall design the form to be used for the voluntary checkoff
11 for fire fighter preparedness. The checkoff form shall
12 include the following information:

13 a. A statement indicating that funds contributed to the
14 fire fighter preparedness fund shall be used by the department
15 of public safety to pay the costs of providing fire fighter
16 training around the state and to pay the costs of providing
17 fire fighter training equipment.

18 b. A statement indicating that a contribution to the fire
19 fighter preparedness fund is irrevocable.

20 c. A statement instructing the contributor to make the
21 contribution payable to the county treasurer of the county
22 that issued the tax statement.

23 3. On or before the fifteenth day of each month, the
24 county treasurer shall forward contributions made pursuant to
25 this section to the state treasurer for deposit in the fire
26 fighter preparedness fund.

27 EXPLANATION

28 This bill creates the fire fighter preparedness fund under
29 the control of the division of fire protection of the
30 department of public safety. Moneys in the fund are
31 appropriated to the division of fire protection of the
32 department of public safety. Moneys in the fund are to be
33 used to pay the costs of providing fire fighter training
34 around the state and fire fighter training equipment.

35 The bill also creates a voluntary checkoff for fire fighter

1 preparedness. The bill provides that the checkoff form is to
2 be included with each property tax statement delivered by the
3 county treasurer. The bill requires the county treasurer to
4 monthly remit to the state treasury contributions received for
5 fire fighter preparedness. The bill requires the state fire
6 service and emergency response council to design the checkoff
7 form.

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Description

Senate File 164 creates a fire fighter preparedness fund under the control of the Division of Fire Protection in the Department of Public Safety. The Bill also creates a voluntary checkoff for a Fire Fighter Preparedness Fund to be included in each property tax statement delivered to the county treasurer.

Assumptions

1. The State Fire Service and Emergency Response Council will design the checkoff form.
2. The number of individuals who might contribute through the checkoff form is unknown.
3. Money in the Fire Fighter Preparedness Fund is appropriated to the Division of Fire Protection in the Department of Public Safety.
4. The county treasurer is required to remit to the Treasurer of State on the 15th of each month contributions received for fire fighter preparedness.
5. A person or entity receiving the tax statement may choose to contribute not less than one dollar.
6. In FY 2002, there were 1.0 million residential properties who paid property tax, 90,000 commercial property owners who paid property tax, and 5,000 industrial property owners who paid property tax.
7. In FY 2002, there were 737,000 homeowners in Iowa.
8. In FY 2000, the Fish and Wildlife Checkoff had 11,900 contributors resulting in \$132,000. The average contribution per person was \$11.00. The State Fair Checkoff has 9,200 contributors resulting in \$96,000. The average contribution per person was \$10.00.
9. Thirty counties outsource approximately 450,000 tax statements. For the remaining smaller counties, there are approximately 5,000 to 15,000 tax statements per county sent to property tax payers, depending on the county size. According to the Iowa State Association of Counties, postage costs are estimated to increase between 5.0% and 10.0%. For approximately 10.0% of Iowa's 99 counties, there may be a need to send larger envelopes.

Fiscal Impact

Senate File 164 may result in increased costs to county governments. However, due to insufficient information, the fiscal impact cannot be determined. Senate File 164 is not expected to result in any significant cost increase to the Department of Public Safety.

While the level of contributions to the Fire Fighter Preparedness Fund cannot be determined due to insufficient information, the following examples are provided:

- Based on the number of State Fair Checkoff contributions (9,200), at an average contribution rate of \$10.00 per person, the Fund would realize approximately \$90,000 annually.
- Based on the number of Fish and Wildlife Checkoff contributions (11,900), at an average contribution rate of \$11.00 per person, the Fund would realize approximately \$130,000 annually.

Sources

Department of Revenue and Finance
Iowa State Association of Counties
Department of Public Safety

/s/ Dennis C Prouty

March 18, 2003
