

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 463

90TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR EHLMANN.

Read 1st time February 17, 1999, and 1,000 copies ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

S2033.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 320.320, RSMo 1994, and sections 190.060, 321.220 and 321.600, RSMo Supp. 1998, relating to volunteer firefighters' benefits, and to enact in lieu thereof four new sections relating to the same subject.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 320.320, RSMo 1994, and sections 190.060, 321.220 and 321.600, RSMo Supp. 1998, are repealed and four new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 190.060, 320.320, 321.220 and 321.600, to read as follows:

190.060. 1. An ambulance district shall have the following governmental powers, and all other powers incidental, necessary, convenient or desirable to carry out and effectuate the express powers:

(1) To establish and maintain an ambulance service within its corporate limits, and to acquire for, develop, expand, extend and improve such service;

(2) To acquire land in fee simple, rights in land and easements upon, over or across land and leasehold interests in land and tangible and intangible personal property used or useful for the location, establishment, maintenance, development, expansion, extension or improvement of an ambulance service. The acquisition may be by dedication, purchase, gift, agreement, lease, use or adverse possession;

(3) To operate, maintain and manage the ambulance service, and to make and enter into contracts for the use, operation or management of and to provide rules and regulations for the operation, management or use of the ambulance service;

(4) To fix, charge and collect reasonable fees and compensation for the use of the

EXPLANATION--Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

ambulance service according to the rules and regulations prescribed by the board from time to time;

(5) To borrow money and to issue bonds, notes, certificates, or other evidences of indebtedness for the purpose of accomplishing any of its corporate purposes, subject to compliance with any condition or limitation set forth in sections 190.001 to 190.090 or otherwise provided by the Constitution of the state of Missouri;

(6) To employ or enter into contracts for the employment of any person, firm, or corporation, and for professional services, necessary or desirable for the accomplishment of the objects of the district or the proper administration, management, protection or control of its property;

(7) To maintain the ambulance service for the benefit of the inhabitants of the area comprising the district regardless of race, creed or color, and to adopt such reasonable rules and regulations as may be necessary to render the highest quality of emergency medical care; to exclude from the use of the ambulance service all persons who willfully disregard any of the rules and regulations so established; to extend the privileges and use of the ambulance service to persons residing outside the area of the district upon such terms and conditions as the board of directors prescribes by its rules and regulations;

(8) To provide for health, accident, disability and pension benefits for the salaried members of its organized ambulance district and such other benefits for the members' spouses and minor children, through either, or both, a contributory or noncontributory plan. The type and amount of such benefits shall be determined by the board of directors of the ambulance district within the level of available revenue of the pension program and other available revenue of the district. If an employee contributory plan is adopted, then at least one voting member of the board of trustees shall be a member of the ambulance district elected by the contributing members. The board of trustees shall not be the same as the board of directors; [and]

(9) To purchase insurance indemnifying the district and its employees, officers, volunteers and directors against liability in rendering services incidental to the furnishing of ambulance services. Purchase of insurance pursuant to this section is not intended to waive sovereign immunity, official immunity or the Missouri public duty doctrine defenses; **and**

(10) To provide for life insurance, accident, sickness, health, disability, annuity, length of service, pension, retirement, and other employee-type fringe benefits for the volunteer members of any organized ambulance district and such other benefits for their spouses and minor children, either through a contributory or noncontributory plan, or both. The type and amount of such benefits shall be determined by the board of directors of the ambulance district within available revenues of the district, including the pension program of the district. The provision and receipt of such benefits shall not make the recipient an employee of the district. Directors who are

also volunteer members may receive such benefits while serving as a director of the district.

2. The use of any ambulance service of a district shall be subject to the reasonable regulation and control of the district and upon such reasonable terms and conditions as shall be established by its board of directors.

3. A regulatory ordinance of a district adopted pursuant to any provision of this section may provide for a suspension or revocation of any rights or privileges within the control of the district for a violation of any regulatory ordinance.

4. Nothing in this section or in other provisions of sections 190.001 to 190.245 shall be construed to authorize the district or board to establish or enforce any regulation or rule in respect to the operation or maintenance of the ambulance service within its jurisdiction which is in conflict with any federal or state law or regulation applicable to the same subject matter.

5. After August 28, 1998, the board of directors of an ambulance district that proposes to contract for the total management and operation of the ambulance service, when that ambulance district has not previously contracted out for said service, shall hold a public hearing within a thirty-day period and shall make a finding that the proposed contract to manage and operate the ambulance service will:

- (1) Provide benefits to the public health that outweigh the associated costs;
- (2) Maintain or enhance public access to ambulance service;
- (3) Maintain or improve the public health and promote the continued development of the regional emergency medical services system.

6. (1) Upon a satisfactory finding following the public hearing in subsection 5 of this section and after a sixty-day period, the ambulance district may enter into the proposed contract, however said contract shall not be implemented for at least thirty days.

(2) The provisions of subsection 5 of this section shall not apply to contracts which were executed prior to August 28, 1998, or to the renewal or modification of such contracts or to the signing of a new contract with an ambulance service provider for services that were previously contracted out.

320.320. 1. A volunteer firefighter serving a rural, volunteer or subscription fire department or organization is serving the state of Missouri in an official capacity as a fire protection volunteer and is hereby declared to be a public safety officer of the state of Missouri serving without [compensation] **wages, salary or certain other employee-type fringe benefits described in subsection 2 of this section.**

2. The designation of a volunteer firefighter as a public safety officer of the state of Missouri in subsection 1 of this section does not entitle a volunteer firefighter to any rights, privileges or benefits provided to an employee or official of the state of Missouri, including retirement benefits and participation in the state legal defense fund; **except as provided in**

subsection 3 of this section.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 2 of this section, any rural, volunteer or subscription fire department or organization, or volunteer fire protection association as defined in section 320.300, may provide life insurance, accident, sickness, health, disability, annuity, length of service, retirement, pension, and other employee-type fringe benefits for volunteer firefighters who are members of any such department, organization or association and such other benefits for their spouses and minor children as the governing board deems appropriate, either through a contributory or noncontributory plan, or both. The type and extent of such benefits shall be determined by the governing board of the department, organization or association, whichever is applicable. The provision and receipt of such benefits shall not make the recipient an employee of the district, association or organization. Directors or board members who are also volunteer firefighters may receive such benefits while serving as a director or board member of the district, association or organization.

321.220. For the purpose of providing fire protection to the property within the district, the district and, on its behalf, the board shall have the following powers, authority and privileges:

- (1) To have perpetual existence;
- (2) To have and use a corporate seal;
- (3) To sue and be sued, and be a party to suits, actions and proceedings;
- (4) To enter into contracts, franchises and agreements with any person, partnership, association or corporation, public or private, affecting the affairs of the district, including contracts with any municipality, district or state, or the United States of America, and any of their agencies, political subdivisions or instrumentalities, for the planning, development, construction, acquisition or operation of any public improvement or facility, or for a common service relating to the control or prevention of fires, including the installation, operation and maintenance of water supply distribution, fire hydrant and fire alarm systems; provided, that a notice shall be published for bids on all construction or purchase contracts for work or material or both, outside the authority contained in subdivision (9) of this section, involving an expense of ten thousand dollars or more;
- (5) Upon approval of the voters as herein provided, to borrow money and incur indebtedness and evidence the same by certificates, notes or debentures, and to issue bonds, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter;
- (6) To acquire, construct, purchase, maintain, dispose of and encumber real and personal property, fire stations, fire protection and firefighting apparatus and auxiliary equipment therefor, and any interest therein, including leases and easements;
- (7) To refund any bonded indebtedness of the district without an election. The terms and conditions of refunding bonds shall be substantially the same as those of the original issue of

bonds, and the board shall provide for the payment of interest, at not to exceed the legal rate, and the principal of such refunding bonds in the same manner as is provided for the payment of interest and principal of bonds refunded;

(8) To have the management, control and supervision of all the business and affairs of the district, and the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of district improvements therein;

(9) To hire and retain agents, employees, engineers and attorneys, including part-time or volunteer firemen;

(10) To have and exercise the power of eminent domain and in the manner provided by law for the condemnation of private property for public use to take any property within the district necessary to the exercise of the powers herein granted;

(11) To receive and accept by bequest, gift or donation any kind of property. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any property received by the fire protection district as a gift or any property purchased by the fire protection district at a price below the actual market value of the property may be returned to the donor or resold to the seller if such property is not used for the specific purpose for which it was acquired;

(12) To adopt and amend bylaws, fire protection and fire prevention ordinances, and any other rules and regulations not in conflict with the constitution and laws of this state, necessary for the carrying on of the business, objects and affairs of the board and of the district, and refer to the proper authorities for prosecution any infraction thereof detrimental to the district. Any person violating any such ordinance is hereby declared to be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as is provided by law therefor. The prosecuting attorney for the county in which the violation occurs shall prosecute such violations in the circuit court of that county. The legal officer or attorney for the fire district may be appointed by the prosecuting attorney as special assistant prosecuting attorney for the prosecution of any such violation. The enactments of the fire district in delegating administrative authority to officials of the district may provide standards of action for the administrative officials, which standards are declared as industrial codes adopted by nationally organized and recognized trade bodies;

(13) To pay all court costs and expenses connected with the first election or any subsequent election in the district;

(14) To have and exercise all rights and powers necessary or incidental to or implied from the specific powers granted herein. Such specific powers shall not be considered as a limitation upon any power necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes and intent of this chapter;

(15) To provide for health, accident, disability and pension benefits for the salaried members of its organized fire department of the district and such other benefits for their spouses and minor children, through either or both a contributory or noncontributory plan. The type and amount of such benefits shall be determined by the board of directors of the fire protection district

within the level of available revenues of the pension program and other available revenues of the district. If an employee contributory plan is adopted, then at least one voting member of the board of trustees shall be a member of the fire district elected by the contributing members, which shall not be the same as the board of directors;

(16) To contract with any municipality that is contiguous to a fire protection district for the fire protection district to provide fire protection to the municipality for a fee as hereinafter provided;

(17) To provide for life insurance, accident, sickness, health, disability, annuity, length of service, pension, retirement, and other employee-type fringe benefits for the volunteer members of any organized fire department of the district and such other benefits for their spouses and minor children, through either a contributory or noncontributory plan, or both. The type and amount of such benefits shall be determined by the board of directors of the fire protection district within available revenues of the district, including the pension program of the district. The provision and receipt of such benefits shall not make the recipient an employee of the district. Directors who are also volunteer members may receive such benefits while serving as a director of the district;

(18) To contract for services with any rural, volunteer or subscription fire department or organization, or volunteer fire protection association, as defined in section 320.300, for the purpose of providing the benefits described in subdivision (17) of this section.

321.600. For the purpose of providing fire protection to the property within the district, the district and, on its behalf, the board shall have the following powers, authority and privileges:

- (1) To have perpetual existence;
- (2) To have and use a corporate seal;
- (3) To sue and be sued, and be a party to suits, actions and proceedings;
- (4) To enter into contracts, franchises and agreements with any person, partnership, association or corporation, public or private, affecting the affairs of the district, including contracts with any municipality, district or state, or the United States of America, and any of their agencies, political subdivisions or instrumentalities, for the planning, development, construction, acquisition or operation of any public improvement or facility, or for a common service relating to the control or prevention of fires, including the installation, operation and maintenance of water supply distribution, fire hydrant and fire alarm systems; provided, that a notice shall be published for bids on all construction or purchase contracts for work or material or both, outside the authority contained in subdivision (9) of this section, involving an expense of ten thousand dollars or more;
- (5) Upon approval of the voters, as herein provided, to borrow money and incur indebtedness and evidence the same by certificates, notes or debentures, and to issue bonds, in

accordance with the provisions of sections 321.010 to 321.450;

(6) To acquire, construct, purchase, maintain, dispose of and encumber real and personal property, fire stations, fire protection and fire-fighting apparatus and auxiliary equipment therefor, and any interest therein, including leases and easements;

(7) To refund any bonded indebtedness of the district without an election. The terms and conditions of refunding bonds shall be substantially the same as those of the original issue of bonds, and the board shall provide for the payment of interest, at not to exceed the legal rate, and the principal of such refunding bonds in the same manner as is provided for the payment of interest and principal of bonds refunded;

(8) To have the management, control and supervision of all the business and affairs of the district, and the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of district improvements therein;

(9) To hire and retain agents, employees, engineers and attorneys, including part-time or volunteer firemen;

(10) To have and exercise the power of eminent domain and in the manner provided by law for the condemnation of private property for public use to take any property within the district necessary to the exercise of the powers herein granted;

(11) To receive and accept by bequest, gift or donation any kind of property. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any property received by the fire protection district as a gift or any property purchased by the fire protection district at a price below the actual market value of the property may be returned to the donor or resold to the seller if such property is not used for the specific purpose for which it was acquired;

(12) To adopt and amend bylaws, fire protection and fire prevention ordinances, and any other rules and regulations not in conflict with the constitution and laws of this state, necessary for the carrying on of the business, objects and affairs of the board and of the district, and refer to the proper authorities for prosecution any violation thereof detrimental to the district. Any person violating any such ordinance is hereby declared to be guilty of a class B misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished as is provided herein:

(a) The prosecuting attorney for the county in which the violation occurs shall prosecute such violations in the circuit court of that county. The legal officer or attorney for the fire district may be appointed by the prosecuting attorney as special assistant prosecuting attorney for the prosecution of any such violation; or

(b) The board may adopt a specific ordinance to impose a fine or a series of fines for specific offenses of not more than five hundred dollars. The accused person may either appear in court at a set date or make payment to the officer appointed by the board, either in person or through the United States mail, with the moneys handled as are all other moneys of the district. If the fine is not paid by the deadline imposed, the violation and the failure to pay the

fine or appear in court at the set date may be further prosecuted as provided in paragraph (a) of this subdivision. The enactments of the fire district in delegating administrative authority to officials of the district may provide standards of action for the administrative officials, which standards are declared as industrial codes adopted by nationally organized and recognized trade bodies;

(13) To pay all court costs and expenses connected with the first election or any subsequent election in the district;

(14) To have and exercise all rights and powers necessary or incidental to or implied from the specific powers granted herein. Such specific powers shall not be considered as a limitation upon any power necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes and intent of sections 321.010 to 321.450;

(15) To provide for health, accident, disability, and pension benefits, through either or both a contributory or noncontributory plan, of the salaried members and such other benefits for their spouses and minor children of its organized fire department of the district. Such benefits shall be determined by the board of directors of the fire protection district within the level of available revenues of the pension program and other available revenues of the district. If an employee contributory plan is adopted, then at least one voting member of the board of trustees shall be a member of the fire district elected by the contributing members, which shall not be the same as the board of directors;

(16) To provide for life insurance, accident, sickness, health, disability, annuity, uniform, length of service, pension, retirement, and other employee-type fringe benefits, through either a contributory or noncontributory plan or both, for the volunteer members and such other benefits for their spouses and minor children of any organized fire department of the district. The type and amount of such benefits shall be determined by the board of directors of the fire protection district within available revenues of the district, including the pension program of the district. The provision and receipt of such benefits shall not make the recipient an employee of the district. Directors who are also volunteer members may receive such benefits while serving as a director of the district;

(17) To contract for services with any rural, volunteer or subscription fire department or organization, or volunteer fire protection association, as defined in section 320.300, for the purpose of providing the benefits described in subdivision (16) of this section.