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S.F. No. 5461 – Establishing an Aid Program for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services Special Taxing Districts (as proposed to be amended by A-1)

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Date: April 24, 2024

SF 5461 establishes an aid program for fire protection and emergency medical services special taxing districts.

Section 1—Fire Protection and EMS Special Taxing District Aid

Subdivision 1. Definitions. Defines the following terms: area, area factor, commissioner, political subdivision, population, and population factor.

Defines special taxing district as a special taxing district that was established for the purpose of providing fire or ambulance services, or both, and that was formed under any of the following:

- 1) Section 144F (general law establishing fire protection and EMS districts);
- 2) Laws 1987, chapter 402, section 2, as amended (Moose Lake Fire Protection District);
- 3) Laws 1993, chapter 375, article 5, section 39, as amended (Floodwood Area Ambulance District); or
- 4) Laws 2009, chapter 88, section 46, as amended (Cloquet Area Fire and Ambulance District).

Subdivision 2. Population need aid. A special taxing district's population need aid equals the product of: (1) the population basic allowance; (2) the special taxing district's population; and (3) the greater of: (i) one; or (ii) the special taxing district's population factor.

Subdivision 3. Area need aid. A special taxing district's area need aid equals the product of: (1) the area basic allowance; (2) the special taxing district's area; and (3) the greater of: (i) one; or (ii) the special taxing district's area factor.

Subdivision 4. Fire protection and EMS special taxing district aid amount. A special taxing district's aid amount is the sum of its population need aid and area need aid. A special taxing district's aid amount cannot exceed 50 percent of its certified levy for that year.

Subdivision 5. Commissioner responsibilities; payment. Requires that the commissioner calculates the population basic allowance and the area basic allowance so that that population need aid and area need aid distributed equal specified percentages of the total appropriated aid amount. As additional information becomes available, the percentage amount for each allowance will be added.

Authorizes the commissioner to request, from the board or governing body of a special taxing district and from the county, whatever information is necessary to calculate aid payments under this section. Requires the commissioner to notify the special taxing districts of their aid amounts, computational factors, and pertinent statewide figures before August 1 of the year preceding the aid distribution year. Requires the commissioner to make aid payments to affected taxing authorities on December 26 annually.

Subdivision 6. Appropriates \$10 million annually from the general fund to the commissioner of revenue for aid under this section.

This section is effective beginning for aids payable in 2025 and thereafter.