



Senate File 5461

Fire Protection and EMS Special Taxing District Aid

SUCCESSIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Equity</u>– All who receive the service contribute to the cost of providing it.• <u>Efficiency</u>– A reduction of duplications in administration, training, and equipment, and implementation of coordinated operational guidelines are a few examples• <u>Capability</u>– Increased effectiveness of fire and rescue emergency services with a combined response from multiple locations, with more responders.• <u>Capital Savings</u>– Less equipment and facilities due to the regional approach to service. Since our creation, we have reduced our fleet by five large apparatus and three other vehicles. We have also reduced our facilities by one, effectively providing high-quality service out of 4 stations instead of five.• <u>Stewardship</u>– Special districts providing emergency services must commit to the most efficient use of funds, essentially implementing systems that seek efficiency to ensure the provision of service to the region they serve..
CHALLENGES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Funding</u>– Public safety aid intended for fire and EMS public safety services (\$300M in 2023) does not reach fire and ambulance special districts. Annual state aid is not yet allocated to special districts• <u>Sustainability</u>– Cloquet Area Fire District was formed without capital reserve funds and has been working to adjust to an accelerated increase in the cost to provide all services. Annual district aid will ensure long-term success and sustainability.• <u>Reimbursement</u>– There is inadequate reimbursement by Medicare and Medicaid for ambulance transport, the cost to provide the service is in most cases 3–4 times the amount collected through the billing process for up to 85% of our ambulance incident responses.
SOLUTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Support</u>– The creation of fire and ambulance special districts by creating a pathway for annual state funding that is intended for these essential public safety services.• <u>Ongoing</u>– Continue the efforts to tackle the issues facing fire and EMS in Minnesota so that reform allows us to develop a sustainable service that continues the tradition of high-quality EMS, firefighting, and rescue services throughout our state.