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Legislative Report

February 23, 2007

Legislative Update – Action Requested

SB07-007, Concerning the Qualification as a Volunteer Firefighter for Purposes of a Volunteer Firefighter Pension Plan. This bill was heard yesterday morning (February 22, 2007) in House Local Government Committee. The Bill was amended in committee to include Counties providing fire protection. The only testimony was from the CSFCA and the Special District's Association; and Colorado Counties, Inc. testified on the need for the amendment. The Bill passed unanimously to the floor. It would be helpful if you would contact your House member(s) and ask for their support on this Bill.

HB07-1152, Concerning The Authorization Of Special Districts Organized 32, Colorado Revised Statutes, To Impose Under Title Impact Fees Pursuant To Existing Statutory Provisions Authorizing Such Fees To Be Levied By Other Local Governments. This Bill was also heard in House Local Government Committee this morning. However, Rep. Stafford asked that the Bill be Postponed Indefinitely. The reason for this is we couldn't reach agreement with the Homebuilders Association on the amendment that we worked with SDA on, and it was evident that we weren't going to overcome their opposition in the committee. So, we thought it would be better not to have a legislative debate on the issue and loose. Instead, the sponsor, SDA, and CCI agreed to work with us over the summer to draft legislation for next year. It is our intent to also work with the Homebuilders Association to educate them on the issues and potentially gain their support.

ACTION REQUESTED

HB07-1092, Concerning the Authority of County Governments to Regulate Fireworks. HB1092 passed 3rd reading in the House on Tuesday, February 20th. It has been assigned to Senate Business, Labor, & Technology Committee. Sen. Wiens has signed on as the Senate sponsor. The hearing has been calendared for March 5, 2007 at 1:30 in Room 354.

Bill Summary: Authorizes the board of county commissioners of a county to prohibit or restrict the sale, use, and possession of fireworks in the unincorporated areas of the county. Prohibits a county from permitting or authorizing the sale, use, or possession of fireworks in violation of state fireworks laws.

Please contact the members of Senate Business, Labor, & Technology Committee and express your support for this bill sometime this next week. The members of Senate Business, Labor, & Technology Committee are:

Sen. Jennifer Veiga, Chair; jennifer.veiga.senate@state.co.us
Sen. Lois Tochtrop, Vice-Chair; lotochtrop@aol.com
Sen. Ken Kester; ken.kester.senate@state.co.us

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Sen. Gail Schwartz; gail.schwartz.senate@state.co.us
Sen. Stephanie Takis; stephanie.takis.senate@state.co.us
Sen. Jack Taylor; No E-mail (303-866-5292)
Sen. Tom Wiens; tom@tomwiens.com

It is particularly important that fire chiefs from the Districts represented by these Senators contact them and ask for their support on the bill. If you have any question as to whom your Senator(s) is/are, click on the link below to view or print a copy of the 2007 Senate Members by Fire District.

Note: Sen. Wiens is the Senate sponsor of the Bill, and therefore does not need to be contacted to support it (unless you just want to thank him and express your support).

For comments or questions concerning this Legislative Update, contact Paul L. Cooke, CSFCA Executive Director at (720) 847-8116 or paul@coloradofirechiefs.org.