

Legislature - First Session - 2019

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB63

Chairperson: Senator Lou Ann Linehan

Committee: Revenue

Date of Hearing: January 24, 2019

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 63 modifies the provisions governing agreements between fire districts within a county creating a Mutual Finance Organization (MFO) as follows:

- Such agreements will change in duration from the current statutory period of one year to a period of at least three years.
- Currently, all members of an MFO must levy the same agreed-upon property tax rate in the year covered by the agreement. Under LB 63, all members of an MFO will be required to levy the same agreed-upon property tax rate for at least one out of every three years covered by the agreement.
- MFO members will be prohibited from levying more than the agreed-upon property tax rate for the duration of the agreement.

LB 63 also modifies provisions pertaining to rural and suburban fire protection districts:

- Provides for an increase in the payments issued to members of the board of directors of a rural or suburban fire protection district for each board meeting from twenty-five dollars to fifty dollars
- Changes the date by which counties must certify levy amounts from August 1 of each year to September 20 of each year
- Rural and suburban fire protection districts will not be required to submit a new levy request every year. Currently, districts are authorized to levy in a given year if their levy request was not granted in the year immediately prior. LB 63 expands this so that if a district submitted a levy request in one of the three years prior, but was not authorized to levy, that district will be authorized to levy up to ten and one-half cents per one hundred dollars for the year in question without submitting a new request.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Mike Groene