

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Be Adopted
Vote:	6 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Atkinson, Burdick, Edwards, Girod, Starr, Beyer
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Richard Berger, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Urges Wage and Hour Division of United States Department of Labor to lessen restrictions on youth empowerment in forestry-related jobs.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Decades of service by youth under 18 years of age in supporting firefighters
- No known major injuries or deaths among youth supporting firefighters

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Changes in federal Child Labor Rule §570.54 have required the Department of Labor to include fire fighting in the category of hazardous occupation and restricts youth from assisting fire crews. For nearly 40 years, youth between 16 and 18 years of age have been allowed to assist fire crews in a support capacity. Youth support crews are required to complete safety and classroom training designed to prepare them for the field. Scope of duties performed include: construction and maintenance of trails, identification and improvement of water sources, removal of vegetation from forest roads, equipment maintenance, routine patrols of forest lands, and support fire suppression activities on cold fires. Senate Joint Memorial 17 requests guidance from the Bureau of Labor and Industries in crafting language that exempts youth support crews from being categorized as a hazardous occupation.