

SB 531 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 04/18/17

Action: Do pass with amendments, subsequent referral to General Government and Accountability be rescinded and refer to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 3-0-1-0

Yeas: 3 - Boquist, Monnes Anderson, Olsen

Exc: 1 - President Courtney

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to create voluntary advisory committee to study how rural fire protection districts can help facilitate community development following disaster. Requires report to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2018. Sunsets December 31, 2018. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Role of local fire districts post-disaster
- Organizing stakeholder meetings without requiring legislation

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces task force with appointment of voluntary advisory committee by OEM. Removes staff requirements.

BACKGROUND:

Rural fire protection districts (RFPDs) are authorized to levy property taxes to provide fire protection and other public safety services. RFPDs may contract for water services and facilities, emergency medical service equipment and services, law enforcement services, fire protection and road-lighting facilities and services, mutual communication systems and regional oil and hazardous materials emergency response teams. They are governed by boards that report to the State Fire Marshal, and the State Fire Marshal cooperates in their formation and administration.

Senate Bill 531-A directs the Office of Emergency Management to create a voluntary advisory committee to study how RFPDs might assist with community development after a disaster.