

# Illinois Fire Services Association

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## ***ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT 2011***

Wednesday, November 2, 2011  
Motorola Corporation  
Schaumburg, Illinois

***Final Report***  
***December 1, 2011***

*Picture courtesy of Motorola*

# Legislative Initiatives for the Illinois Fire Service Caucus

## Acknowledgement

I wanted to simply say thank you for the participation of you and others in this week's Illinois Fire Services Association summit. I think once again, it was a huge success and could not have been possible with the attendance of all 13 organizations and the input provided. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Bob Buhs and Pat Kenny for their work on the spreadsheet and keeping things straight. The four legislators that attended seemed to really enjoy being part of it and I have heard from three of them since Wednesday. They were Representatives Carol Sente, Don Moffitt, Sid Mathias, and Robert Pritchard. I have sent letters of appreciation to those as well as Tammy Duckworth. I would also like to acknowledge the team from Motorola, Cynthia and Pat and others who made it possible. Letters of appreciation have also been sent to them.

This is just another example of why being in the fire service is the best place to work. Thanks for allowing me to be a small part of it.

Sincerely,

*John A. Schuldt*

John A. Schuldt

Chairman

Illinois Fire Services Association

# Illinois Fire Service Association

## Approved Legislative Initiatives For 2012

Proposed Initiative	Lead Organization	Comments	Category
Initiatives to increase funding for the Fire Prevention Fund	ALL	Develop specific legislation for each of the following additional FPF Funding Initiatives that ensure that for each initiative that 425 ILCS 25 13 (c) Sections (1) IFSI and (2) Chicago Fire Department and all remaining subparagraphs of Section 13 (c) are modified to authorize allocation of the additional FPF funding for distribution to these "purposes":	
		1. <b>1% of gross motor vehicle insurance premiums.</b> Modify 425 ILCS section 12 to eliminate the word "fire" from "motor Vehicle Fire Risk Premium..." thus making all motor vehicle risk insurance premiums part of the 1% FPF.	
		2. <b>\$3.00 increase in the driver's history record requests.</b> Modify the Illinois Vehicle Code and 425 ILCS by adding a new Section 12.1 to authorize an additional \$3 to be collected with each request and deposited into the Fire Prevention Fund.	
		3. <b>\$5.00 increase in drivers license renewals.</b> Modify the Illinois Vehicle Code and 425 ILCS 25 by adding a new Section 12.x to authorize an additional \$1 to be collected with each renewal and deposited into the Fire Prevention Fund.	
		4. <b>\$1.00 increase in License Plate Sticker Renewal.</b> Modify the Illinois Vehicle Code and 425 ILCS 25 by adding a new Section 12.x authorize an additional \$1 to be collected with each renewal and deposited into the Fire Prevention Fund.	
5. <b>Maintenance of MABAS operations and capital expenses.</b> Add a new Sub-Section to 425 ILCS Section 13 to wit: <b>"(5) For the maintenance, operation and capital expenses of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS)."</b>			

Additional non-legislative proposal:

6. **\$1.00 check box on insurance premium billings consults w/insurance companies.** It was agreed that IFSA would set up meeting with insurance company representatives to discuss having the insurance companies doing business in Illinois add a voluntary check the box to add \$1 to the insurance premium billings to be deposited in a TRUST FUND for fire and emergency.

Proposed Initiative	Lead Organization	Comments	Category
MAMA-C Legislation	MABAS	AN ACT to authorize interstate mutual aid for emergency responses which do not rise to the level requiring a state or local declaration of a state of emergency or disaster, and to recognize out-of-state professional licenses, certifications or other permits when the state or a county, city, village, township, special district, or other political subdivision or unit of local government requests mutual aid from jurisdictions outside of this State, to provide immunity from civil actions to certain persons acting pursuant to mutual aid agreements, and to maintain employee benefits.	
R/R Crossing Closing Notification	IAFPD	Railroad Crossing Closings Notifications to require County and Township Road Supervisor to notify local fire district chiefs	
Add Alternatives to the Requirement to Publish Entire Budget	IAFPD	Amend Section 7 (70ILCS705/7) by striking the phrase "or making any appropriation", thereby removing the requirement on fire protections to publish its entire budget. Each FPD must currently publish its budget resulting in many \$1000s that could otherwise be spent on providing necessary services.	
Natural Gas/Utilities in Hazardous Materials/Spiller Pays	IAFPD	Add natural gas, gas liquids, and liquefied natural gas to the "hazardous material emergency response reimbursement act to provide for cost recovery subsequent to natural gas leaks caused by improper locating of the gas service lines or by careless actions of the contractor. Include electrical transmission. Extra ordinary expenses can also be recovered. The issue is ongoing and being addressed via 'JULIE' Regulations rewrite. Add IEMA and Commerce Commission.	
Cook County Tax Appeals Notification	IAFPD	Amend Section 35 of the Property Tax Code to include Cook County fire protection districts in the notification of property tax appeals that exceed \$100,000 and delete a provision exempting counties with 3,000,000 or more inhabitants from certain notice requirements concerning tax objections.	

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Public/Private Partnerships for Mutual Aid	MABAS	Establish a mechanism for providing immunity from liability for private sector organizations when they act to support emergency and disaster response. Local government does not have the resources including funding to handle all emergencies. In some cases, private sector partnerships must be created in order for the local emergency service agencies to mitigate the emergency without cause for liability issues. Local emergency responders who respond to all types of emergencies are covered under the Tort Immunity Law. However, there are some emergencies that demand a response of special equipment such as cranes, drilling equipment, and the like which are owned and operated by private sector companies who are willing to assist but are open for lawsuits. Further, in many rural areas of the state, the response time of the private contractor would be more expedient given the geographic proximity to the emergency scene versus mutual aid or a state asset, thus resulting in a more efficient incident management.	
Resolution to amend the sprinkler retrofit	IFIA	Amend the 1986 Internal Revenue Code to classify fire sprinkler retrofits as a five year property for purposes of depreciation.	
Require all advertisements of "Class C Fireworks" to include a disclaimer	IFSA	Require all advertisements of class C fireworks in Illinois to include a disclaimer stating <b><i>Warning: Illinois law prohibits the possession of fireworks without proper permits.</i></b> Check with law enforcement prior to purchase. Out of State fireworks companies advertise in Illinois to lure our residents across the border to purchase fireworks in blatant violation of Illinois law. The majority of fireworks injuries seen in children under 15 stem from misuse of class C fireworks.	
Enable Consolidation of Fire Districts and Departments by amending applicable Statutes	ALL	Amend all applicable Statutes to allow consolidation of fire districts and fire departments. <b><i>Task Force may be needed to prepare the applicable language.</i></b>	

Proposed Initiative	Lead Organization	Comments	Category
Blood Draws for DUI	IFCA EMS Committee	This proposed legislation amends the Illinois Vehicle Code and would remove the language that currently requires “ <b>certified paramedics</b> ” to draw blood from suspected DUI drivers upon the request from a police officer. Although the EMS community supports law enforcement efforts in reducing the amount of drunk drivers on our highways, utilizing paramedics to draw blood alcohol samples poses many significant financial and legal problems for the fire service.	
Seek a Resolution from both the Illinois House and Senate supporting continued federal financial assistance for disaster preparedness and readiness of first responder consortiums involving mutual aid total force capabilities.	MABAS	Passing a state legislative resolution encouraging our federal elected representatives to support first responder disaster response funding directly related to Illinois-specific risks for meta-disasters, like the New Madrid Fault Line, and the needed statewide mutual aid system’s response, operation and sustainment. The action supports the recently released Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD #8) and revised national response policy.	
Seek legislative remedy exempting MABAS specifically occupied properties from property taxes whether leasing, renting or owning the noted, specific properties.	MABAS	Pass legislation at the state level officially exempting MABAS owned, leased or rented property specifically noted as fully tax exempt from local taxing authorities. MABAS are considered intergovernmental entities facilitating the sharing of governmental resources between units of government (state to local and local to local). Applying property tax requirements against the occupied properties would put an additional, unrealistic burden on units of local government potentially making use and occupancy of the structures unaffordable, unrealistic and crippling to nationally recognize mutual aid systems and the State’s ability to respond to disasters. Tax exemption of properties requires an initial consideration by the county with formal approval by the Illinois Department of Revenue	

Proposed Initiative	Lead Organization	Comments	Category
Seek legislation to clarify emergency vehicle license plate use and fees.	IFCA	<p><b>625 ILCS 5/3-808.1 Vehicle registration plates....government owned vehicles</b></p> <p>(b) Permanent vehicle registration plates shall be issued for a onetime fee of \$8.00, to the following:</p> <p>6. Beginning with the 2012 registration year, municipally owned, fire district owned, or MABAS owned vehicles operated by or for any fire department, fire protection district, or MABAS. These registration plates shall contain the designation “fire department” and shall contain the specific MABAS Division number or letter and unit letter and/or number.</p> <p>(c) 2. Beginning with the 2012 registration year, municipally owned, fire district owned, or MABAS owned vehicles operated by or for any fire department, fire protection district, or MABAS that have been issued registration plates under subsection (b) of this Section shall be exempt from any fee for the transfer of registration from one vehicle to another vehicle. Each fire department, fire protection district, or MABAS shall report to the Secretary of State any transfer of registration plates from one vehicle to another vehicle operated by or for any fire department, fire protection district, or MABAS. The Secretary of State shall adopt rules to implement this subsection (c) (2).</p>	
Seek Legislation for Volunteer Departments to address the unemployment insurance.	IFCA	That a Fire District not pays unemployment when a Paid on call FF is laid off from their full time job and are still working for the Fire District.	
Seek legislation to amend the seat belt use in emergency vehicles.	IFCA	Amend the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provide that the exception to safety belt requirements does not apply to firefighters and other emergency services personnel. Effective immediately.	
Seek Legislation to amend the Illinois Hospital Act to reflect the Federal Ryan White Act language.	IFCA	With the recent re-authorization of the federal Ryan White Act, there are gaps of coverage of the Illinois EMS provider when comparing the State and Federal legislation. Two of the most glaring difference deals in the notification process of potential exposed workers to a blood borne pathogens or communicable disease and the newly revised CDC communicable disease listing. We would like to change the Illinois Hospital Act to reflect the federal legislation.	

Proposed Initiative	Lead Organization	Comments	Category
Seek Legislation to amend Homestead property and paying property taxes.	IAFPD	"Homestead property" under this Section includes residential property that is occupied by its owner or owners as his or their principal dwelling place, or that is a leasehold interest on which a single family residence is situated, which is occupied as a residence by a person who has an ownership interest therein, legal or equitable or as a lessee, and on which the person is liable for the payment of property taxes. For land improved with an apartment building owned and operated as a cooperative or a building which is a life care facility as defined in Section 15-170 and considered to be a cooperative under Section 15-170, the maximum reduction from the equalized assessed value shall be limited to the increase in the value above the equalized assessed value of the property for 1977, up to the maximum reduction set forth above, multiplied by the number of apartments or units occupied by a person or persons who is liable, by contract with the owner or owners of record, for paying property taxes on the property and is an owner of record of a legal or equitable interest in the cooperative apartment building, other than a leasehold interest. For purposes of this Section, the term "life care facility" has the meaning stated in Section 15-170.	

Definition of Categories

- **Category A: Critical initiatives** to address current issues and needs involving the entire emergency service delivery system.
- **Category B: Important initiatives** that address administrative or operational needs at a regional or local level of government
- **Category C: Substantial initiatives** that modify or create new state statutes to address current or emerging issues.