

Illinois Fire Services Association

LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT 2009



Picture courtesy of Motorola

Legislative Initiatives for the Illinois Fire Service Caucus

Acknowledgement

This year's summit was a success and I want to begin by thanking Motorola Corporation once again for hosting The 2009 Annual Legislative Summit. Cynthia Leighton has done an outstanding job preparing for our summit and I cannot thank her and the Motorola staff enough for all that they do to make the summit a success. And to the Illinois Fire Services Associations Executive Director John Schuldt, we thank you John along with Mitch for the dedication and commitment to ensure that the summit is successful in every way. With every Illinois fire service association present and participating, the one -day summit went extremely well. Everyone left satisfied with the work that was accomplished.

This summary report contains the 2010 Illinois Fire Caucus Initiatives which will be presented to Representative Moffitt who will seek sponsors for each. Once all initiatives are filed and bill numbers assigned, I will be forwarding announcements and alerts to all members asking for their support by contacting their local Senators and Representatives. If all goes well, we hope to have another year of successful legislation that will only enhance our abilities to providing the best possible service to those we serve.

Thank you!

Illinois Fire Service Association

Legislative Initiatives for the IGA Spring of 2009

Category	Lead Organization	Language Submitted	Comments
As Priority #1 Initiatives Increase Funding for the Fire Prevention Fund	ALL		<p>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”:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>1% of gross motor vehicle insurance premiums.</u> 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. <u>\$3.00 increase in the driver’s history record requests.</u> 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. <u>\$5.00 increase in drivers license renewals.</u> 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. <u>\$1.00 increase in License Plate Sticker Renewal.</u> 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. <u>Establish an additional 2.5% transfer of FPF to IFSI for support of the Cornerstone Training Program.</u> Modify 425 ILCS Section 13 (c) (1) Illinois Fire Service Institute by adding a sentence to wit “An additional 2.5 % shall be available for support of the Cornerstone Training Program.” 2.5% is equivalent of the current 2009 and projected 2010 Cornerstone Training Grant. By placing it in this paragraph the Cornerstone program will no longer be a grant; rather, it will be a line item for IFSI only in the University of Illinois annual budget, which, when approved by the Legislature and Governor, will be authorized by the State Treasurer for spending by IFSI. 6. <u>Maintenance of MABAS operations and capital expenses.</u> Add a new Sub-Section to 425 ILCS Section 13 to wit: <u>“(5) For the maintenance, operation and capital expenses of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS).”</u> <p>Additional non-legislative proposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. <u>\$1.00 check box on insurance premium billings consult w/insurance companies.</u> 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 <u>voluntary</u> check the box to add \$1 to the insurance premium billings to be deposited in a TRUST FUND for fire and emergency

			services support. The fund could be established as a 401.c.(3) or similar tax deductible donation and administered by a Board composed of the IFSA members and insurance company representatives. This would bypass the State legislature and appropriations process and be similar to the way in with Maryland administers a license plate fee.
Accumulated Funds Exemption – Rainy Day Fund	IAFPD		Amend Section 14 to include specific language for compensation or operational expenses to the allowed exemptions for accumulated funds for fire districts that are subject to PTELL.
Trustee Serving on a Non-for-Profit Board Membership	IAFPD		Amend Section 4 of the Illinois Fire Protection District Act (70 ILCS 705/4) by the addition of the following: (i) Under either of the following circumstances, a trustee may hold a position on the board of a not-for-profit corporation that is interested in a contract, work, or business of the fire protection district: (1) If the trustee is appointed by the governing body of the district to represent the interests of the district on a not-for-profit corporation's board, then the trustees may actively vote on matters involving either that board or the district, at any time, so long as the membership on the not-for-profit board is not a paid position, except that the trustee may be reimbursed by the not-for-profit board for expenses incurred as the result of membership on the not-for-profit board. (2) If the trustee is not appointed to the governing body of a not-for-profit corporation by the governing body of the municipality, then the trustee may continue to serve; however, the trustee shall abstain from voting on any proposition before the district board of trustees directly involving the not-for-profit corporation and, for those matters, shall not be counted as present for the purposes of a quorum of the board of trustees.
R/R Crossing Closing Notification	IAFPD		Railroad Crossing Closings Notifications to require County Road Supervisor to notify local fire district chiefs
Changes in FP Board Configurations	IAFPD		Provision to allow changes to and from a seven member board
Add Alternatives to the Requirement to Publish Entire Budget	IAFPD IFA (Terry Cox)		Amend Section 7 (70ILCS705/7) by add electronic media for required posting as an additional option that allows public access to the appropriation ordinance's and budget. Currently, every fire district is required to publish its budget and costs of \$1000 plus dollars and could otherwise be spent on providing necessary services.
.60 Levy Authority	IAFPD		To add authority for a maximum corporate tax rate of .60%. Municipalities already have this authority in 65 ILCS 5/11-7-3. In PTELL counties, this would automatically bump up the maximum rate for the corporate levy to .6% under the last amendment made to PTELL [a referendum would be required, in all likelihood, to raise the limiting rate to take advantage of the .60% rate authority]. In non-PTELL counties, voters would have to approve going to .60%.

Property Tax Extension Limitation Law	IAFPD		Amend property tax code in regards to PTELL exemptions for-tort liability, pension contributions, risk management programs, and insurance.
Natural Gas/Utilities in HazMat/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.
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 deletes a provision exempting counties with 3,000,000 or more inhabitants from certain notice requirements concerning tax objections.
FPD Impact Fees	IAFPD		Rapid growth within communities has caused the need for additional stations to be built. Though some communities support their fire protection districts and have impact fee or developer donation language in their respective annexation agreements, this is not always the case. Also, the annexation agreements only affect growth that comes from land outside of a particular community and doesn't address in-fill development and/or developments that were approved prior to this legislation passing. Without the fire protection districts having the legal authority to impose and collect impact fees, there will continue to be a gross inequity between one fire protection district and another and between fire protection districts and other governmental bodies in terms of the money they can collect to insure that adequate infrastructure (i.e., fire stations) is in place to protect their communities.
Increase Compensation Limits for Trustees	IAFPD		Amend section 6 to add an additional category or increase per annum for Fire Protection Districts with more than 30 paid fire fighters.
Tap on fees from private water systems for residential sprinkler systems	IFIA (George Michehl)		Stop the use of the term "Fire Protection Fee" since Illinois American Water provides no fire protection, and has caused great anguish for fire districts whose residents are falsely under the impression that this fee goes to the fire districts. Stop the "Stand-by" charge for all fire protection sprinklers, this charge varies according to connection size, but it is charged to single family homes to commercial, for water that is rarely if ever used. This charge puts an unnecessary burden on customers who chose to be fire safe. Basically negates any savings from insurance for sprinklering a building and unfairly goes after those who use sprinklers and not those who do not.

Public/Private Partnerships for Mutual Aid	MABAS (Jay Reardon)		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 (George Michehl)		Amend the 1986 Internal Revenue Code to classify fire sprinkler retrofits as a five year property for purposes of depreciation. this resolution is designed to send a strong message to the Illinois Congressional delegation that the House of Representatives supports the need to provide a Federal tax incentive for business owners to install fire sprinkler systems in both new and existing structures. Resolution encourages the Illinois delegation to support the Federal Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2009 HR 1194.