



Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association

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About HB10-1095

Concerning a Limitation on the Authority of a Fire Protection District to Charge Fees for Providing Certain Rescue Services to Those Services Provided at the Scene of a Motor Vehicle Accident (Rep. Gerou)

What the bill does:

- Prior to 2009, Colorado law specifically permitted fire protection district to impose a fee for ambulance and emergency medical services.
- Last year, Rep. Gerou introduced a bill (HB09-1041) to clarify that the types of fees that could be assessed by a fire protection district include rescue, extrication and other safety services (traffic control, etc.). HB09-1041 was enacted into law.
- The purpose of this bill is to clarify that the language "RESCUE OR EXTRICATION OF TRAPPED OR INJURED PARTIES" added in 2009 is limited to services provided at the scene of a motor vehicle accident.

Background information:

- There are approximately 250 fire protection districts in the State of Colorado; most of which were formed for the specific purpose of providing fire protection to the residents of their communities.
- Over time, the type of services the fire department is called upon to provide has increased. No longer is the fire department just who call if you have a fire, but who you call if you have virtually any kind of emergency. Currently, fires account for less than 5% of all the incidents handled by Colorado fire departments.
- In 2008 alone, Colorado fire departments handled more than 283,000 emergency medical and rescue calls (66% of all incidents). The types of rescue calls handled by fire departments include high-angle, swift water, ice-rescue, dive-rescue, collapse rescue and other forms of technical rescue.
- The increased demand for non-firefighting services is impacting the budgets of fire districts and in many cases, such as services provided on Interstate Highways, the user of the service does not contribute to the operating revenue of the district.
- Fire districts operate almost exclusively from property taxes. Current law recognizes that certain types of services cause an extraordinary demand on the resources of the fire district and the users of these services should reimburse the cost of providing them.
- The CSFCA does not oppose specifying that the language "RESCUE OR EXTRICATION OF TRAPPED OR INJURED PARTIES" added in 2009 is limited to services provided at the scene of a motor vehicle accident, so long as it does not affect the ability of a fire district to assess fees for technical rescue services.

"Serving the Chief Fire Officers of Colorado Since 1968"