



## Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association

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### Support House Bill 09-1041

Concerning a Fire Protection District Board's Authority to Fix Fees for Emergency Medical Services (Rep. Gerou, Sen. Gibbs)

#### What the bill does:

HB09-1041 would allow the board of any fire protection district to fix and from time to time increase or decrease fees for extrication, rescue, or safety services provided in furtherance of ambulance or emergency medical services.

#### Why support the bill:

- There are approximately 250 fire protection districts in the State of Colorado; many of which were formed for the specific purpose of providing fire protection to the residents of their communities.
- Over time, the types of services the fire department is called upon to provide has increased; no longer is the fire department just who you 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 types of incidents handled by Colorado fire departments.
- In 2008 alone, Colorado fire departments handled more than 165,000 emergency medical and rescue calls (66% of all incidents).
- 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 fire district.
- Current law recognizes that certain types of services provide an extraordinary demand on the resources of the fire district and the users of these services should reimburse the cost of providing them. However, the statute limits the types of fees and charges a fire protection district may impose to ambulance and emergency medical services, and requested or mandated inspections.
- The EMS and rescue services provided by the fire district are often in advance of a responding ambulance service and some question whether establishing a fee for these services is permissible under current law.
- HB09-1041 will address this ambiguity and allow fire protection districts to recover some or all of the cost of providing extrication, rescue, or safety services.

For these reasons we encourage and would appreciate your support of HB09-1041.

**"Serving the Chief Fire Officers of Colorado Since 1968"**