



Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association

Post Office Box 3945
Englewood, Colorado 80155
Phone: (720) 874-8116
Fax: (720) 862-2181

www.colofirechiefs.org

Legislative Committee Meeting Notes

Friday, January 15, 2010

A meeting of the CSFCA Legislative Committee was held on Friday, January 15, 2010 at the South Metro Fire headquarters. Conference call capabilities were provided for this meeting.

The following members of the Legislative Committee were in attendance: Dave Parmley; Dan Qualman; Chris Riley; and Paul Cooke (ex-officio). On the phone were Steve Pischke (Chairperson); Dan Noonan; Jerry Rhodes; Larry Donner; and Ken Watkins.

The following items were covered during this meeting/teleconference call:

Current Legislation

Currently there eight (8) bills posted on the website that the CSFCA might have some input/interest in following.

HB10-1016, Concerning the Extension of the Term of the Retired Member of the Board of Directors of the FPPA (Rep. Waller, Sen. Tochtrop).

- This bill extends the term of the retired firefighter or police officer serving as a member of the BOD of the FPPA from 4 to 6 years. This bill is fairly benign and if needed, Todd Bower (Denver Fire and FPPA Board member) can testify to on our behalf.

HB10-1018, Concerning Increased Authority to Regulate Waste Tires (Rep. Looper and Primavera, Sen. Gibbs).

- Cooke reported that the Colorado Association for Recycling (CAFR) has worked with Rep. Primavera on an amendment to set out a separate fund within the waste tire fund, specifically for monofills. Their feeling is that once monofills get cracking and start using tires, they could easily take all the rest of the money in the fund and then some.
- The CSFCA will continue to work on an amendment to expand the use of the fund for training to include equipment.
- Donner asked if the bill would provide funding for an incident that went into an extended operational period. When we meet with the stakeholders, we will ask about this as well (the stakeholders meeting has been set for Friday, January 22nd).

HB10-1054, Concerning Presenting School Safety Information at Institutions of Higher Education (Rep. King S., Sen. Carroll M.).

- The bill requires higher ed institutions to conduct a 45-minute school safety presentation during new student orientation and annually to returning students, faculty, and staff. Chiefs Donner, Riley and

"Serving the Chief Fire Officers of Colorado Since 1968"

Watkins were asked to look the bill over and provide feedback so the Committee can decide how best to proceed – this info for our next conference call on Jan 22nd.

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).

- While we have worked extensively with Rep. Gerou on this bill (and the search and rescue people) to make it a non-issue for us. However, we need to monitor this bill very closely so that things do not get changed or that issues arise during committee consideration that would change where we stand on this bill (which at present does not present any issues for us). We are attempting to meet with the stakeholders before this bill goes to committee to ensure we are all on the same page.

SB10-021, Concerning a Volunteer Firefighter Pension Plan (Sen. Morse, Rep. Labuda)

- This is Dino Ross's volunteer pension clean-up bill, with which we have no problems. It is our understanding that Dino has some of his client fire chiefs lined up to testify on the bill.
- This bill is scheduled to be heard by Senate Business, Labor, & Technology Committee on Monday, January 25, 2010 at 1:30 P.M. in SCR 354. Dino has been advised to let those who have indicated an interest in testifying on the bills behalf to be there on Monday.

SB10-022, Concerning a Member-Approved Increase in the Member Contribution Rate to the Statewide Defined Benefit Plan Administered by the FPPA (Sen. Morse, Rep. Riesberg and King S.).

- This bill permits the FPPA Board to increase the member contribution rate for the statewide defined benefit plan if certain conditions are met.
- This bill is scheduled to be heard by Senate Business, Labor, & Technology Committee on Monday, January 25, 2010 at 1:30 P.M. in SCR 354. We are monitoring this bill only.

SB10-023, Concerning the Discretion of the Board of Directors of the FPPA to Adopt Rules Regarding the Return to Work by a Member Participating in the Defined Benefit System of the Association Who Elects Retirement (Sen. Williams, Rep. Riesberg and Liston)

- This bill allows the FPPA Board to adopt rules suspending the distribution of benefits to any retired member participating in the defined benefit system who, after electing a retirement, has returned to work with an employer who also participates in the defined benefit system.
- This bill is scheduled to be heard by Senate Business, Labor, & Technology Committee on Monday, January 25, 2010 at 1:30 P.M. in SCR 354. We are monitoring this bill only.

SB10-024, Concerning the Repeal of the Authority of The Board of Directors of the FPPA to Affiliate with a Local Money Purchase Pension Plan (Sen. Tochtrop, Rep. Labuda),

- This bill repeals the authority of the FPPA Board to enter into an agreement with an employer establishing a money purchase pension plan for the purpose of having the board administer the plan and manage the investment of the moneys of the plan. Currently there are no such affiliated local money purchase plans and FPPA does not anticipate any that will ever seek affiliation.
- This bill is scheduled to be heard by Senate Business, Labor, & Technology Committee on Monday, January 25, 2010 at 1:30 P.M. in SCR 354. We are monitoring this bill only.

Urban Renewal/TIF

Cooke reported that no URA bills have been introduced as of yet, however, Chief Riley distributed an outline of what is supposed to be in Rep. Hullinghorst's bill and a draft of Rep. Fischer's bill. Riley indicated that he had obtained these from the Director of the Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority. Riley advised that his Urban Renewal Director referred to Rep. Hullinghorst's bill as the "Nuclear Red Button Bill" as it would have a significant impact on URA's. He also suggested that CML might not oppose Rep. Fischer's bill, especially if Rep. Hullinghorst's bill went away. He also indicated that there will be a third bill which would eliminate school districts from future URA TIF.

The concepts of Rep. Hullinghorst's bill that were originally distributed by CML are posted at: http://www.colofirechiefs.org/10Legislature/Bill_Concepts_Hullinghorst_URA.pdf.

Rep. Fischer's bill (HB10-1107), Concerning Limitations on the Inclusion of Agricultural Lands within Urban Renewal Areas, is posted at: http://www.colofirechiefs.org/10Legislature/1107_01.pdf. Note: The draft was not posted as it was received the same day the bill was introduced.

Cooke reported that this is the first he had seen these documents and has not had the opportunity to review them and make a recommendation.

Prescribed Fire Legislation

Cooke reported that members of the CSFCA Wildland Fire Section BOD continue to work with the Colorado Prescribed Fire Council, Rich Homann, CSFS Fire Division Supervisor, and the Bill Sponsor (Sen. Gibbs) to address CSFCA concerns with the draft bill.

Residential Sprinkler System Legislation

Chief Qualman mentioned that he had talked to an individual who is a member of the Home Builders Association and asked if they were contemplating legislation to prohibit local jurisdictions from adopting residential sprinkler system requirements. According to this individual the Home Builders Association is satisfied with the direction taken by the Joint Ad-Hoc Residential Sprinkler Committee and will not be seeking legislation.

Primary Seat Belt Legislation

Chief Rhodes reported that Sen. Suzanne Williams will be introducing a bill to make the failure to use seat belts a primary offense. Similar legislation has been run unsuccessfully in the past and the CSFCA has supported such efforts. Rhodes expressed that if the CSFCA takes a position to support this bill this year, he would like to take the lead on it as Sen. Williams represents his District. No objections to this were expressed.

Other Issues

Meeting With SDA

Cooke reported that he, Steve Pischke, Doug McBee, and Dan Qualman met with Ann Terry and Evan Goulding of the Special District Association on January 11th. They had a good discussion about URA/TIF issues and other potential legislative issues affecting special districts. During the Legislative Session, Doug McBee will represent the CSFCA in SDA Legislative Meetings.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Legislative Committee will be Friday, January 22, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. at South Metro Fire Headquarters. Conference call capability will be provided. We will be meeting weekly at the same time, unless notice is given of a change or that a particular meeting is not needed.

Steve Pischke
Legislative Committee Chair