

SENATE BILL NO. 185—SENATOR KIECKHEFER

FEBRUARY 23, 2015

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Makes changes relating to fire and related emergency services in certain counties. (BDR 42-121)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to suppression of fires; requiring the entity that is responsible for the closest emergency fire-fighting vehicle to respond to and suppress certain fires in certain counties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 Existing law authorizes the municipalities of this State to provide fire
2 protection services. (NRS 268.730) Existing law also authorizes the creation of
3 districts for a fire department by boards of county commissioners and the creation
4 of fire protection districts and county fire protection districts. (NRS 244.2961,
5 473.034, 474.110, 474.460) This bill requires, in a county whose population is
6 100,000 or more but less than 700,000 (currently Washoe County), the entity that is
7 responsible for the emergency fire-fighting vehicle located closest to a structure or
8 brush fire to respond to and take all actions necessary to suppress the fire regardless
9 of whether the location of the fire falls within the territory served by the entity.

1 WHEREAS, The provision of fire protection and related
2 emergency services is fundamental to what the people of this State
3 expect from their local governments; and

4 WHEREAS, Providing such services in a timely, effective and
5 efficient manner is critical to the protection of life and property; and

6 WHEREAS, The infighting that has continuously occurred for
7 several years between the entities that provide fire protection and
8 related emergency services in Washoe County threatens the lives



1 and property of the people of this State who reside in that county;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The failure of the local governments in Washoe
4 County to resolve this dispute in a timely manner now requires the
5 Nevada Legislature to intervene and ensure that the lives and
6 property of the people of this State who reside in Washoe County
7 are no longer put at risk by the reluctance of these entities to find an
8 agreement that protects their residents; now, therefore,
9

10 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
11 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:
12

13 **Section 1.** Chapter 475 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
14 thereto a new section to read as follows:

15 *Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in a*
16 *county whose population is 100,000 or more but less than 700,000,*
17 *the entity that is responsible for the emergency fire-fighting*
18 *vehicle located closest to a structure or brush fire shall respond to*
19 *and take all actions necessary to suppress the fire regardless of*
20 *whether the fire occurs within the territory served by the entity.*

