
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 6462

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2010 Regular Session

By Senators Honeyford, Hewitt, Schoesler, Holmquist, Stevens,
Morton, Delvin, King, Roach, Becker, and Swecker

Read first time 01/14/10. Referred to Committee on Government
Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to firefighter duties; adding a new section to
2 chapter 52.12 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 4.24 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 52.12 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Any firefighter that is present at the scene of a wildfire,
7 regardless of whether it is beyond the boundaries of his or her
8 district, has a duty to undertake firefighting efforts to suppress the
9 fire if the fire poses a danger to human life or structures. However,
10 the firefighter is under no duty to undertake firefighting efforts if
11 he or she does not have the equipment or manpower at the scene to fight
12 the fire in a safe and reasonable manner.

13 (2)(a) The priorities and methods under this section are determined
14 by the chain of command of the pertinent agency.

15 (b) If an official chain of command has not been established, the
16 firefighting priorities and methods shall be determined by the most
17 senior firefighter on the engine.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 4.24 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 Any state or municipal firefighter, whether volunteer or paid, who
4 takes part in firefighting efforts outside his or her jurisdiction or
5 provides emergency care, rescue, assistance, or recovery services at
6 the scene of an emergency is not liable for civil damages resulting
7 from any act or omission in the rendering of such services, other than
8 acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton
9 misconduct.

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