

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to suppression of fires; temporarily requiring the entity that is responsible for the closest emergency fire-fighting vehicle to respond to and suppress certain fires in certain counties; exempting an airport authority located in certain counties from this requirement; requiring certain entities to negotiate an automatic aid agreement concerning certain matters; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law authorizes the municipalities of this State to provide fire protection services. (NRS 268.730) Existing law also authorizes the creation of districts for a fire department by boards of county commissioners and the creation of fire protection districts and county fire protection districts. (NRS 244.2961, 473.034, 474.110, 474.460) **Section 1** of this bill requires, in a county whose population is 100,000 or more but less than 700,000 (currently Washoe County), the entity that is responsible for the emergency fire-fighting vehicle located closest to a structure or brush fire to respond to and take all actions necessary to suppress the fire regardless of whether the location of the fire falls within the territory served by the entity. **Section 1** exempts an airport authority in such a county and any vehicle or firefighter of such an airport authority from this requirement. **Section 1** additionally: (1) requires each entity, other than an airport authority which maintains an emergency fire-fighting vehicle in such a county, to negotiate an automatic aid agreement with each other such entity which addresses the reimbursement of costs, geographic areas of coverage or any other relevant issue or any combination thereof; and (2) provides that a failure to reach an automatic aid agreement does not exempt an entity from complying with the requirement to respond to a fire if it is responsible for the emergency fire-fighting vehicle located closest to the fire. **Section 2** of this bill provides that the provisions of **section 1** expire by limitation on June 30, 2017.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The infighting that has continuously occurred for several years between the entities that provide fire protection and related emergency services in Washoe County threatens the lives and property of the people of this State who reside in that county; and

WHEREAS, The failure of the local governments in Washoe County to resolve this dispute in a timely manner now requires the



Nevada Legislature to intervene and ensure that the lives and property of the people of this State who reside in Washoe County are no longer put at risk by the reluctance of these entities to find an agreement that protects their residents; now, therefore,

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

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

1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in a county whose population is 100,000 or more but less than 700,000, the entity that is responsible for the emergency fire-fighting vehicle located closest to a structure or brush fire, unless that entity is described in subsection 4, shall respond to and take all actions necessary to suppress the fire regardless of whether the fire occurs within the territory served by the entity.

2. Each entity, other than an airport authority which maintains an emergency fire-fighting vehicle in a county whose population is 100,000 or more but less than 700,000, shall negotiate an automatic aid agreement with each other such entity to address:

(a) The reimbursement of costs for actions to suppress fires pursuant to subsection 1;

(b) Geographic areas to be covered by each entity, except that any such geographic areas must be established so that, at a minimum, the entity responsible for the emergency fire-fighting vehicle located closest to a structure or brush fire is required to respond to the fire as described in subsection 1; or

(c) Any other issues relating to the requirements of subsection 1 identified by the entities.

3. The failure of an entity to enter into an automatic aid agreement pursuant to subsection 2 does not exempt the entity from the requirements imposed by subsection 1.

4. The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply to an airport authority or to any emergency fire-fighting vehicle or firefighter of an airport authority.

Sec. 2. This act expires by limitation on June 30, 2017.

