As Reported by the Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

124th General Assembly
Regular Session
2001-2002

H. B. No. 143

REPRESENTATIVES Young, Calvert, Flowers, Hartnett, Latell, Reinhard, Schaffer, Seitz, Coates, Carano, Sferra, Fessler, Widowfield, Schmidt, Hughes, White, Roman, Wolpert, Carmichael, Distel, Driehaus, Salerno, Setzer, Stapleton, Strahorn, Jolivette, Williams, Grendell, Core, Cates, Faber, Collier, Hagan, Webster, Kearns, Reidelbach, Olman, Lendrum, G. Smith,

Niehaus

SENATORS Spada, Mumper

ABILL

Го	amend sections 505.371, 505.375, 505.38, 733.68,	1
	737.08, and 737.22 and to enact section 9.61 of the	2
	Revised Code to specify that state law does not	3
	require a municipal corporation fire chief to be a	4
	resident or elector of the municipal corporation,	5
	does not require a township fire chief to be a	6
	resident of the township, and does not require a	7
	township fire district fire chief, joint fire	8
	district fire chief, or fire and ambulance district	9
	fire chief to be a resident of the township fire	10
	district, joint fire district, or fire and	11
	ambulance district.	12

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Sec	ction	1.	That	sections	505	.371, 50	5.375	, 50	05.38	3, 733.68	3,	13
737.08,	and	737	.22 k	oe amended	l and	section	9.61	of	the	Revised	Code	14

may be compensated at a rate not to exceed thirty dollars per meeting, not to exceed fifteen meetings per year, and may be reimbursed for all necessary expenses incurred. The board shall employ a clerk of the board of fire district trustees.

(C)(1) The board of fire district trustees may establish reasonable charges for the use of ambulance or emergency medical services. The board may establish different charges for residents and nonresidents of the district, and may waive, at its discretion, all or part of the charge for any resident of the district. The charge for nonresidents shall be an amount not less than the authorized medicare reimbursement rate, except that if, prior to February 4, 1998, the board had different charges for residents and nonresidents and the charge for nonresidents was less than the authorized medicare reimbursement rate, the board may charge nonresidents less than the authorized medicare reimbursement rate.

(2) In the resolution creating the joint fire district, the political subdivisions that create the district may provide that any of those political subdivisions may agree to pay any charges for the use of ambulance or emergency medical services that the board of fire district trustees establishes under division (C)(1) of this section and that are incurred by the residents of the particular political subdivision. Unless the board elects pursuant to that division to waive all or part of the charges for the use of ambulance or emergency medical services that any resident of the district incurs, the residents of a particular political subdivision that has not so agreed to pay the charges for the use of ambulance or emergency medical services incurred by its residents shall pay those charges.

(3) Charges collected under division (C) of this section shall be kept in a separate fund designated as the ambulance and emergency medical services fund and shall be appropriated and

administered by the board. The fund shall be used for the payment of the costs of the management, maintenance, and operation of ambulance and emergency medical services in the district.

(4) As used in division (C) of this section, "authorized medicare reimbursement rate" has the same meaning as in section 505.84 of the Revised Code.

(D) Any municipal corporation or township, or parts of them, may join an existing joint fire district by the adoption of a resolution requesting such membership and upon approval of the board of fire district trustees. Any municipal corporation or township may withdraw from a joint fire district created under this section, by the adoption of a resolution ordering withdrawal. On or after the first day of January of the year following the adoption of the resolution of withdrawal, the municipal corporation or township withdrawing ceases to be a part of such district, and the power of the district to levy a tax upon taxable property in the withdrawing township or municipal corporation terminates, except that the district shall continue to levy and collect taxes for the payment of indebtedness within the territory of the district as it was comprised at the time the indebtedness was incurred.

Upon the withdrawal of any township or municipal corporation from a joint fire district created under this section, the county auditor shall ascertain, apportion, and order a division of the funds on hand, including funds in the ambulance and emergency medical services fund, moneys and taxes in the process of collection, except for taxes levied for the payment of indebtedness, credits, and real and personal property, either in money or in kind, on the basis of the valuation of the respective tax duplicates of the withdrawing municipal corporation or township and the remaining territory of the joint fire district.

When the number of townships and municipal corporations

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comprising a joint fire district is reduced to one, the joint fire district ceases to exist by operation of law, and the funds, credits, and property remaining after apportionments to withdrawing municipal corporations or townships shall be assumed by the one remaining township or municipal corporation. When a joint fire district ceases to exist and an indebtedness remains unpaid, the board of county commissioners shall continue to levy and collect taxes for the payment of such that indebtedness within the territory of the joint fire district as it was comprised at the time the indebtedness was incurred.

(E) Neither this section nor any other section of the Revised

Code requires, or shall be construed to require, that the fire

chief of a joint fire district be a resident of the fire district.

Sec. 505.375. (A) The board of a joint ambulance district created under section 505.71 of the Revised Code and the board of a joint fire district created under section 505.371 of the Revised Code may negotiate in accordance with this section to combine their two joint districts into a single district, called a fire and ambulance district, for the delivery of both fire and ambulance services, if the geographic area covered by the combining joint districts is exactly the same. Both boards shall adopt a joint resolution ratifying the agreement and setting a date on which the fire and ambulance district shall come into being. On that date, the joint fire district and the joint ambulance district shall cease to exist, and the power of each to levy a tax upon taxable property shall terminate, except that any levy of a tax for the payment of indebtedness within the territory of the joint fire or joint ambulance district as it was composed at the time the indebtedness was incurred shall continue to be collected by the successor fire and ambulance district if the indebtedness remains unpaid.

All	funds and other property of the joint districts that
combined	into the fire and ambulance district shall become the
property	of the fire and ambulance district, unless otherwise
provided	in the negotiated agreement. The agreement shall provide
for the s	settlement of all debts and obligations of the joint
districts	3.

(B) The governing body of the fire and ambulance district shall be a board of trustees of at least three but no more than nine members, appointed as provided in the agreement creating the district. Members of the board of trustees may be compensated at a rate not to exceed thirty dollars per meeting for not more than fifteen meetings per year, and may be reimbursed for all necessary expenses incurred, as provided in the agreement creating the district.

The board shall employ a clerk and such other employees as it considers best, including a fire chief or fire prevention officers, and shall fix their compensation. Before Neither this section nor any other section of the Revised Code requires, or shall be construed to require, that the fire chief of a fire and ambulance district be a resident of the district.

Before entering upon the duties of office, the clerk shall execute a bond, in the amount and with surety to be approved by the board, payable to the state, conditioned for the faithful performance of all of the clerk's official duties. The clerk shall deposit the bond with the presiding officer of the board, who shall file a copy of it, certified by the presiding officer, with the county auditor of the county containing the most territory in the district.

The board shall also provide for the appointment of a fiscal
officer for the district. The board may also enter into agreements
with volunteer fire companies for the use and operation of
fire-fighting equipment. Volunteer firefighters acting under such
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an agreement are subject to the requirements for volunteer

firefighters set forth in division (A) of section 505.38 of the

Revised Code.

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Employees of the district shall not be removed from office except as provided by sections 733.35 to 733.39 of the Revised Code, except that, to initiate removal proceedings, the board shall designate a private citizen, or, if the employee is employed as a firefighter, the board may designate the fire chief, to investigate, conduct the proceedings, and prepare the necessary charges in conformity with sections 733.35 to 733.39 of the Revised Code, and except that the board shall perform the functions and duties specified for the municipal legislative authority under those sections. The board may pay reasonable compensation to any private citizen hired for services rendered in the matter.

No person shall be appointed as a permanent full-time paid member of the district whose duties include fire fighting, or be appointed as a volunteer firefighter, unless that person has received a certificate issued under former section 3303.07 or section 4765.55 of the Revised Code evidencing satisfactory completion of a firefighter training program. The board may send its officers and firefighters to schools of instruction designed to promote the efficiency of firefighters, and, if authorized in advance, may pay their necessary expenses from the funds used for the maintenance and operation of the district.

The board may choose, by adoption of an appropriate 197 resolution, to have the Ohio ambulance licensing board license any 198 emergency medical service organization it operates. If the board 199 adopts such a resolution, Chapter 4766. of the Revised Code, 200 except for sections 4766.06 and 4766.99 of the Revised Code, 201 applies to the organization. All rules adopted under the 202 applicable sections of that chapter also apply to the

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organization. The board may likewise, by resolution, remove its	204
emergency medical service organization from the jurisdiction of	205
the Ohio ambulance licensing board.	206
(C) The board may exercise the following powers:	207
(1) Purchase or otherwise provide any fire apparatus,	208
mechanical resuscitators, or other fire or ambulance equipment,	209
appliances, or materials; fire hydrants; and water supply for	210
fire-fighting purposes that seems advisable to the board;	211
(2) Provide for the care and maintenance of equipment and,	212
for that purpose, purchase, lease, or construct and maintain	213
necessary buildings;	214
(3) Establish and maintain lines of fire-alarm communications	215
within the limits of the district;	216
(4) Appropriate land for a fire station or medical emergency	217
unit needed in order to respond in reasonable time to a fire or	218
medical emergency, in accordance with Chapter 163. of the Revised	219
Code;	220
(5) Purchase, appropriate, or accept a deed or gift of land	221
to enlarge or improve a fire station or medical emergency unit;	222
(6) Purchase, lease, maintain, and use all materials,	223
equipment, vehicles, buildings, and land necessary to perform its	224
duties;	225
(7) Contract for a period not to exceed three years with one	226
or more townships, municipal corporations, counties, joint fire	227
districts, governmental agencies, nonprofit corporations, or	228
private ambulance owners located either within or outside the	229
state, to furnish or receive ambulance services or emergency	230
medical services within the several territories of the contracting	231
parties, if the contract is first authorized by all boards of	232
trustees and legislative authorities concerned;	233

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(8) Establish reasonable charges for the use of ambulance or	234
emergency medical services under the same conditions under which a	235
board of fire district trustees may establish those charges under	236
section 505.371 of the Revised Code;	237
(9) Establish all necessary rules to guard against the	238
occurrence of fires and to protect property and lives against	239
damage and accidents;	240
(10) Adopt a standard code pertaining to fire, fire hazards,	241
and fire prevention prepared and promulgated by the state or by a	242
public or private organization that publishes a model or standard	243
code;	244
(11) Provide for charges for false alarms at commercial	245
establishments in the same manner as joint fire districts are	246
authorized to do under section 505.391 of the Revised Code;	247
(12) Issue bonds and other evidences of indebtedness, subject	248
to Chapter 133. of the Revised Code, but only after approval by a	249
vote of the electors of the district as provided by section 133.18	250
of the Revised Code;	251
(13) To provide the services and equipment it considers	252
necessary, levy a sufficient tax, subject to Chapter 5705. of the	253
Revised Code, on all the taxable property in the district.	254
(D) Any municipal corporation or township may join an	255
existing fire and ambulance district by its legislative	256
authority's adoption of a resolution requesting such the	257
membership and upon approval of the board of the district. Any	258
municipal corporation or township may withdraw from a district by	259
its legislative authority's adoption of a resolution ordering	260
withdrawal. Upon its withdrawal, the municipal corporation or	261
township ceases to be a part of the district, and the district's	262
power to levy a tax on taxable property in the withdrawing	263
township or municipal corporation terminates, except that the	264

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district shall continue to levy and collect taxes for the payment	265
of indebtedness within the territory of the district as it was	266
composed at the time the indebtedness was incurred.	267
Upon the withdrawal of any township or municipal corporation	268
from a district, the county auditor of the county containing the	269
most territory in the district shall ascertain, apportion, and	270
order a division of the funds on hand, including funds in the	271
ambulance and emergency medical services fund, moneys and taxes in	272
the process of collection, except for taxes levied for the payment	273
of indebtedness, credits, and real and personal property on the	274
basis of the valuation of the respective tax duplicates of the	275
withdrawing municipal corporation or township and the remaining	276
territory of the district.	277
(E) As used in this section:	278
(1) "Governmental agency" includes all departments, boards,	279
offices, commissions, agencies, colleges, universities,	280
institutions, and other instrumentalities of this or another	281
state.	282
(2) "Emergency medical service organization" has the same	283
meaning as in section 4766.01 of the Revised Code.	284
Sec. 505.38. (A) In each township or fire district that has a	285
fire department, the head of such the department shall be a fire	286
chief, appointed by the board of township trustees, except that,	287
in a joint fire district, the fire chief shall be appointed by the	288
board of fire district trustees. The Neither this section nor any	289
other section of the Revised Code requires, or shall be construed	290
to require, that the fire chief be a resident of the township or	291
fire district.	292
<u>The</u> board shall provide for the employment of such	293
firefighters as it considers best- and shall fix their	294
compensation. No person shall be appointed as a permanent	295

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full-time paid member, whose duties include firefighting fire fighting, of the fire department of any township or fire district unless such that person has received a certificate issued under former section 3303.07 or section 4765.55 of the Revised Code evidencing satisfactory completion of a firefighter training program. Such Those appointees shall continue in office until removed therefrom from office as provided by sections 733.35 to 733.39 of the Revised Code. To initiate removal proceedings, and for such that purpose, the board shall designate the fire chief or a private citizen to investigate the conduct and prepare the necessary charges in conformity with sections 733.35 to 733.39 of the Revised Code.

In case of the removal of a fire chief or any member of the fire department of a township or <u>fire</u> district, an appeal may be had from the decision of the board to the court of common pleas of the county in which <u>such</u> the township or <u>fire</u> district fire department is situated, to determine the sufficiency of the cause of removal. <u>Such</u> The appeal from the findings of the board shall be taken within ten days.

No person who is appointed as a volunteer firefighter of the fire department of any township or fire district after July 1, 1979, shall remain in such a that position unless either of the following applies:

- (1) Within one year of the appointment, the person has received a certificate issued under former section 3303.07 of the Revised Code or division (C)(1) or (2) of section 4765.55 of the Revised Code evidencing satisfactory completion of a firefighter training program.
- (2) The person began serving as a permanent full-time paid firefighter with the fire department of a city or village prior to July 2, 1970, or as a volunteer firefighter with the fire department of a city, village, or other township or fire district

prior to	July 2	, 19	979, and	receives	s a	cert	tificate	issued	under	
division	(C)(3)	of	section	4765.55	of	the	Revised	Code.		

No person shall receive an appointment under this section after July 1, 1979, in the case of a volunteer firefighter, unless the person has, not more than sixty days prior to receiving such the appointment, passed a physical examination, given by a licensed physician, showing that the person meets the physical requirements necessary to perform the duties of the position to which the person is appointed as established by the board of township trustees having jurisdiction over the appointment. The appointing authority shall, prior to making any such an appointment, file with the Ohio police and fire pension fund or the local volunteer fire fighters' dependents fund board a copy of the report or findings of said that licensed physician. The professional fee for such the physical examination shall be paid for by the board of township trustees.

(B) In each township not having a fire department, the board of township trustees shall appoint a fire prevention officer who shall exercise all of the duties of a fire chief except those involving the maintenance and operation of fire apparatus. The board of township trustees may appoint one or more deputy fire prevention officers, who shall exercise the duties assigned by the fire prevention officer.

The board of township trustees may fix such the compensation for the fire prevention officer and the fire prevention officer's deputies as it considers best. The board of township trustees shall appoint each fire prevention officer and deputy for a one-year term. An appointee may be reappointed at the end of a term to another one-year term. Any appointee may be removed from office during a term as provided by sections 733.35 to 733.39 of the Revised Code. The provisions of section Section 505.45 of the Revised Code extend extends to such those officers.

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the <u>board of</u> township trustees or otherwise, but <u>such</u> <u>those</u>	393
persons are eligible for promotion only by compliance with Chapter	394
124. of the Revised Code.	395
Sec. 733.68. (A) Except as otherwise provided by in division	396
(B) of this section or in another section of the Revised Code,	397
each officer of a municipal corporation, or of any department or	398
board thereof of a municipal corporation, whether elected or	399
appointed as a substitute for a regular officer, shall be an	400
elector of the municipal corporation, and, before entering upon	401
his official duties, shall take an oath to support the	402
constitution of the United States and the constitution of this	403
state, and an oath that he the officer will faithfully, honestly,	404
and impartially discharge the duties of his the office to which	405
elected or appointed. Such These provisions as to official oaths	406
shall extend to deputies, but they need not be electors.	407
(B) Neither this section nor any other section of the Revised	408
Code requires, or shall be construed to require, that a city fire	409
chief be an elector of the city or that a village fire chief be an	410
elector of the village.	411
Sec. 737.08. (A) The fire department of each city shall be	412
composed of a chief of the fire department and such other	413
officers, firefighters, and employees as provided for by	414
ordinance. Neither this section nor any other section of the	415
Revised Code requires, or shall be construed to require, that the	416
fire chief be a resident of the city.	417
(B) No person shall, after July 1, 1970, be appointed as a	418
permanent full-time paid member, whose duties include firefighting	419
fire fighting, of the fire department of any city, unless either	420
of the following applies:	421
(1) The person has received a certificate issued under former	422

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section 3303.07 of the Revised Code or division (C)(1) or (2) of	423
section 4765.55 of the Revised Code evidencing satisfactory	424
completion of a firefighter training program+.	425
(2) The person began serving as a permanent full-time paid	426
firefighter with the fire department of a village or other city	427
prior to July 2, 1970, and receives a certificate issued under	428
division (C)(3) of section 4765.55 of the Revised Code.	429
(C) No person who is appointed as a volunteer firefighter of	430
a city fire department after July 1, 1979, shall remain in such a	431
that position, unless either of the following applies:	432
(1) Within one year of the appointment, the person has	433
received a certificate issued under former section 3303.07 of the	434
Revised Code or division (C)(1) or (2) of section 4765.55 of the	435
Revised Code evidencing satisfactory completion of a firefighter	436
training program÷.	437
(2) The person began serving as a permanent full-time paid	438
firefighter with the fire department of a village or other city	439
prior to July 2, 1970, or as a volunteer firefighter with the fire	440
department of a township, fire district, village, or other city	441
prior to July 2, 1979, and receives a certificate issued under	442
division (C)(3) of section 4765.55 of the Revised Code.	443
(D) The director of public safety shall have the exclusive	444
management and control of such other surgeons, secretaries,	445
clerks, and employees, as are provided <u>for</u> by ordinance or	446
resolution of the legislative authority of such the city.	447
Sec. 737.22. (A) Each village establishing a fire department	448
shall have a fire chief as the <u>department's</u> head thereof ,	449
appointed by the mayor with the advice and consent of the	450
legislative authority of the village, who shall continue in office	451
until removed therefrom from office as provided by sections 733.35	452

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(2) No person who is appointed as a voluntee	r firefighter of 484	4
a village fire department after July 1, 1979, sha	ll remain in such 489	5
a that position, unless either of the following a	pplies: 480	б

(a) Within one year of the appointment, the person has 487 received a certificate issued under former section 3303.07 or 488 section 4765.55 of the Revised Code evidencing satisfactory 489 completion of a firefighter training program. 490

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- (b) The person has served as a permanent full-time paid firefighter with the fire department of a city or other village prior to July 2, 1970, or as a volunteer firefighter with the fire department of a city, township, fire district, or other village prior to July 2, 1979, and receives a certificate issued under division (C)(3) of section 4765.55 of the Revised Code.
- (3) No person shall receive an appointment under this section after January 1, 1970, and after July 1, 1979, in the case of a volunteer firefighter, unless the person has, not more than sixty days prior to receiving such the appointment, passed a physical examination, given by a licensed physician, showing that the person meets the physical requirements necessary to perform the duties of the position to which the person is to be appointed as established by the legislative authority of the village. The appointing authority shall, prior to making any such an appointment, file with the Ohio police and fire pension fund or the local volunteer fire fighters' dependents fund board a copy of the report or findings of said that licensed physician. The professional fee for such the physical examination shall be paid for by such the legislative authority of the village.
- **Section 2.** That existing sections 505.371, 505.375, 505.38, 511 733.68, 737.08, and 737.22 of the Revised Code are hereby 512 513 repealed.

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Section 3. Section 505.375 of the Revised Code is presented	514			
section 3. Section 303.373 of the Revised Code is presented	214			
in this act as a composite of the section as amended by both Am.	515			
Sub. S.B. 5 and Am. Sub. S.B. 30 of the 122nd General Assembly.	516			
The General Assembly, applying the principle stated in division	517			
(B) of section 1.52 of the Revised Code that amendments are to be	518			
harmonized if reasonably capable of simultaneous operation, finds	519			
that the composite is the resulting version of the section in	520			
effect prior to the effective date of the section as presented in	521			
this act.	522			

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