

## Summary of Amendment S0609-1A

Prepared by: Susan Lenczewski

Date: March 23, 2021

The delete-all amendment amends SF 609 (Goggin) / HF 419 (Drazkowski), a bill that revises the method of allocating supplemental state aid to volunteer firefighter relief associations and the PERA Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan. The changes made by the amendment are not substantive, in that they do not change the per firefighter allocation method in the bill. The amendment incorporates changes the Department of Revenue needs in order to administer the bill.

- The amendment adds two new definitions, for “career firefighter municipalities” and “per firefighter amount” to add clarity and make the allocation provisions easier to understand. The amendment replaces the definition of “municipality” with the definition in current law, at paragraph (b) of subdivision 2 of Section 423A.022. The strike-out of paragraph (b) remains as in the bill, since this definition is now included in subdivision 1a, the new definitions subdivision.
- The amendment adds a look-back to two years prior to the date the supplemental aid is to be paid to determine the number of active volunteer firefighters. DOR does not receive data quick enough from PERA and the State Auditor to use more current data to determine the number of active volunteer firefighters in each fire department around the state.
- The amendment requires PERA and the State Auditor to provide the data regarding the number of active volunteer firefighters by July 1 each year, in a format required by the DOR, for one year and two years prior to July 1 reporting date. (We understand the DOR needs Excel spreadsheets, not pdfs of spreadsheets.)
- Finally, the amendment includes a default, which will apply if the DOR does not receive firefighter data on a municipality for any particular year, which we understand could happen if the municipality does not timely provide the data to PERA or the State Auditor or PERA or the State Auditor do not timely provide the data to the DOR. The default is that the DOR will consider a municipality as having 10 active volunteer firefighters, in the absence of actual data on the number of firefighters.

### Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

55 State Office Building  
Phone: 651-296-2750

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
TDD: 651-296-9896; Fax: 651-297-3697

St. Paul, MN 55155-1201  
[www.lcpr.leg.mn](http://www.lcpr.leg.mn)

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