

By Senator Bennett

21-1728-07

See HB

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to firefighting; amending s.

3 40.013, F.S.; excusing certain firefighters

4 from jury duty service; amending s. 191.008,

5 F.S.; authorizing the governing board of a fire

6 control district to recover court costs and

7 attorney's fees in certain civil actions;

8 amending s. 191.011, F.S.; authorizing a fire

9 control district to exempt property owned or

10 operated by religious institutions from non-ad

11 valorem assessments; providing a definition;

12 providing an effective date.

14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
17 40.013, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

18 40.013 Persons disqualified or excused from jury
19 service.--

20 (2)

21 (b) Any full-time federal, state, or local law
22 enforcement officer or such entities' investigative personnel
23 or any full-time firefighter, as defined in s. 112.81, shall
24 be excused from jury service unless such persons choose to
25 serve.

26 Section 2. Subsections (5), (6), and (7) of section
27 191.008, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6),
28 (7), and (8), respectively, and a new subsection (5) is added
29 to that section, to read:

30 191.008 Special powers.--Independent special fire
31 control districts shall provide for fire suppression and

1 prevention by establishing and maintaining fire stations and
2 fire substations and acquiring and maintaining such
3 firefighting and fire protection equipment deemed necessary to
4 prevent or fight fires. All construction shall be in
5 compliance with applicable state, regional, and local
6 regulations, including adopted comprehensive plans and land
7 development regulations. The board shall have and may exercise
8 any or all of the following special powers relating to
9 facilities and duties authorized by this act:

10 (5) Recover reasonable court costs, including
11 attorney's fees, from the nonprevailing party in any civil
12 action to enforce the provisions of chapter 553 or chapter 633
13 and this section concerning fire suppression and prevention
14 and the enforcement of the firesafety code.

15 Section 3. Subsection (12) is added to section
16 191.011, Florida Statutes, to read:

17 191.011 Procedures for the levy and collection of
18 non-ad valorem assessments.--

19 (12) Property owned or operated by a religious
20 institution and used primarily as a place of worship shall be
21 exempt from any non-ad valorem assessments levied pursuant to
22 this act if the governing board of the district desires to
23 exempt all religious institutions in the district from such
24 assessments. The term "religious institution" means any
25 church, synagogue, or other established physical place for
26 worship at which nonprofit religious services and activities
27 are regularly conducted and carried on.

28 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
29 law.