

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to firefighting; amending s. 40.013, F.S.;
 3 excusing certain firefighters from jury duty service;
 4 amending s. 191.008, F.S.; authorizing the governing board
 5 of a fire control district to recover court costs and
 6 attorney's fees in certain civil actions; amending s.
 7 191.011, F.S.; authorizing a fire control district to
 8 exempt property owned or operated by religious
 9 institutions from non-ad valorem assessments; providing a
 10 definition; providing an effective date.

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

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 14 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
 15 40.013, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16 40.013 Persons disqualified or excused from jury
 17 service.--

18 (2)

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

23 Section 2. Subsections (5), (6), and (7) of section
 24 191.008, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6),
 25 (7), and (8), respectively, and a new subsection (5) is added to
 26 that section, to read:

27 191.008 Special powers.--Independent special fire control
 28 districts shall provide for fire suppression and prevention by

29 establishing and maintaining fire stations and fire substations
 30 and acquiring and maintaining such firefighting and fire
 31 protection equipment deemed necessary to prevent or fight fires.
 32 All construction shall be in compliance with applicable state,
 33 regional, and local regulations, including adopted comprehensive
 34 plans and land development regulations. The board shall have and
 35 may exercise any or all of the following special powers relating
 36 to facilities and duties authorized by this act:

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

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

44 191.011 Procedures for the levy and collection of non-ad
 45 valorem assessments.--

46 (12) Property owned or operated by a religious institution
 47 and used primarily as a place of worship shall be exempt from
 48 any non-ad valorem assessments levied pursuant to this act if
 49 the governing board of the district desires to exempt all
 50 religious institutions in the district from such assessments.
 51 The term "religious institution" means any church, synagogue, or
 52 other established physical place for worship at which nonprofit
 53 religious services and activities are regularly conducted and
 54 carried on.

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