



SPONSOR: Rep. D. Short & Rep. Carson & Sen. Brown & Sen. Pettyjohn & Sen. Poore
Reps. Baumbach, Briggs King, Cooke, Hensley, Hilovsky, Minor-Brown, Osienski, Vanderwende, K. Williams, Yearick; Sens. Hansen, Hocker, Hoffner, Huxtable, Lawson, Mantzavinos, Walsh, Wilson

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 61

TO SUPPORT THE COUNTIES OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE IN THEIR EFFORT TO RESEARCH AND STUDY THE NEEDS AND FINANCES OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICES AND PAID AMBULANCE ENTITIES OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, Volunteer Fire Service entities play a vital role in providing emergency services and protecting
2 communities across the State of Delaware; and

3 WHEREAS, the fire and ambulance companies in Delaware are made up of independent companies that work
4 together as one cohesive network overseen by the Delaware Fire Commission; and

5 WHEREAS, the State of Delaware and the counties of Delaware financially support the network to ensure
6 sustainability; and

7 WHEREAS, Volunteer Fire Service entities rely on tax dollars to effectively serve their communities; and

8 WHEREAS, the State of Delaware supports efficient use of their tax dollars; and

9 WHEREAS, it is necessary to assess the financial framework of Volunteer Fire Service entities and explore the
10 potential of their financial conditions and establish if there is a need for change or enhancement to their current funding
11 arrangements to enhance emergency service delivery in Delaware; and

12 WHEREAS, the Delaware General Assembly previously established the Fire Service Retention and Recruitment
13 Task Force and evaluated the recruitment and retention of volunteers in the fire service entities in Delaware to help
14 maintain and grow the staffing statewide and provided items to implement to improve the overall recruitment and retention
15 of volunteers.

16 NOW, THEREFORE:

17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the
18 Senate concurring therein, that we support the efforts of the Counties of the State in their efforts to do a consulting study of
19 the current financial situation of the Volunteer and paid Companies and Departments in the entire State including
20 fundraising efforts, status of equipment and infrastructure, their operational costs, and their fiscal management.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives and the Senate of the 152nd General Assembly,
22 support the effort to identify opportunities and threats as it relates to the current funding models of the Volunteer Fire
23 Services and Paid Ambulance Services, evaluate the sustainability of volunteerism, explore ideas to recruit and retain
24 volunteers; and review the recommendations of the efforts of the Fire Service Retention and Recruitment Task Force as to
25 the recommendations made and if they were implemented.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the counties should consult relevant experts, gather data and testimonials
27 from stakeholders, and perform other necessary tasks to fulfill its objectives.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives and the Senate of the 152nd General Assembly,
29 hope that the final report will include comprehensive details as to its findings, conclusions, and recommendations that will
30 be shared with the House of Representatives and Senate, and include legislative proposals, policy recommendations, and
31 potential funding strategies to address the needs of the Volunteer Service entities in Delaware.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives and the Senate of the 152nd General Assembly,
33 encourage all relevant government agencies, Volunteer Fire Service organizations, and stakeholders to fully cooperate with
34 the counties' efforts on these objectives and provide necessary assistance and information.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of this
36 resolution to the Senate and the Governor's office, relevant state agencies, Volunteer Fire Service entities and other
37 stakeholders.

SYNOPSIS

This resolution encourages support for the counties of this State in their effort to research and study the needs and finances of the volunteer fire services and paid ambulance entities of the State of Delaware.